

Hafa Adai!

PSS explains SARC at Rotary Club meeting. **PAGE 2**  
MANGO attends WHIAANHPI Convening. **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 186

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## Thieves' new target: Tire rims

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

There's a new fetish for thieves on Saipan and it has resulted in a series of car tire rim thefts.

The Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigation Bureau is currently looking into four cases where victims have reported that their car tires—complete with the rims—have been stolen.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop said CIB is currently looking into four reported cases—three on Navy Hill and one

in Chalan Kanoa.

He shared that along with the tire thefts, a couple of other gas siphoning incidences

have also occurred, this time with thieves targeting sedans after previously victimizing

See **THIEVES** on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A recent victim of tire thieves shares a picture of her 2021 Toyota CHR with missing tires and rims.

## Star Marianas seeks FAA probe into CPA fee structure

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The plot thickens in the ongoing “fees” feud between Star Marianas Air, Inc. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority with the airline now in the process of demanding an investigation into CPA's fee-setting practices arguing that CPA is coercing airlines to pay unfair fees.

Yesterday, Star Marianas  
See **STAR** on Page 4



## Calmer weather expected this week

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Heavy rains caused flooding in several parts of Saipan yesterday. Photo shows just one of several flooded areas in Garapan.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
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CORRESPONDENT

Due to a nearby passing storm, Saipan residents experienced

strong winds and heavy rains yesterday resulting in flooding in some villages and roads.

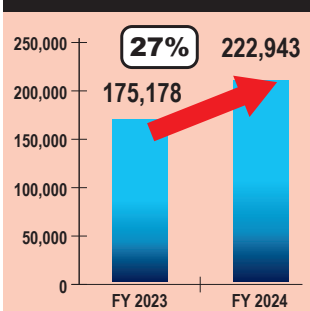
According to a National  
See **CALMER** on Page 4

## Visitor arrivals at 21K in August 2024

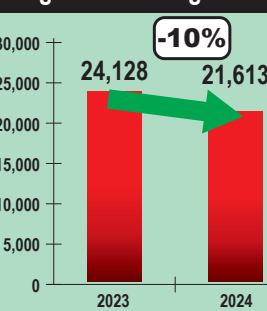
According to monthly statistics from the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota decreased 10% to 21,613 visitors in August 2024, compared to 24,128 visitors received in August 2023. While monthly arrivals are 55% lower compared to pre-pandemic levels of August 2019, when arrivals reached 47,489

See **VISITOR** on Page 4

Visitor Arrivals Year to Date  
FY 2023 vs. FY 2024



Visitor Arrivals  
Aug. 2023 vs. Aug. 2024



Source: Marianas Visitors Authority



## PALACIOS MEETS WITH PAPARO

OFFICE OF THE CNMI GOVERNOR

In a follow-up discussion to their July meeting, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios met with Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command last week at Camp H.M. Smith in Oahu, Hawaii, home of the command's headquarters. Their discussion was centered on U.S. Department of Defense activities that benefit the CNMI, as well as infrastructure and healthcare projects. They also talked about initiatives that would expand economic partnerships with regional U.S. allies. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command includes 380,000 soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coast guardsmen, and Department of Defense civilians and is responsible for all U.S. military activities in the Indo-Pacific, covering 36 nations and encompassing about half the Earth's surface. Paparo assumed duties as commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, in May 2024 following the U.S. Senate's confirmation of his nomination to the post.

## INSIDE



### NATION

Donald Trump was the target of what the FBI said “appears to be an attempted assassination” at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday.

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### WORLD

A missile fired by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels landed in an open area in central Israel early Sunday and triggered air raid sirens at its international airport.

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### LIFE & STYLE

“Shogun” had historic wins in an epic 18-E Emmy first season, “Hacks” scored an upset for best comedy on what was still a four-trophy night for “The Bear,” and “Baby Reindeer” had a holiday at an Emmy Awards that had some surprising swerves.

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# Local

## PSS explains SARC at Rotary Club meeting

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD  
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CORRESPONDENT

The School Accountability Report Card was introduced by the Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho while serving as guest speaker during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

In a video presented by Camacho, Alisa Pangelinan and Romolo Orsini introduced SARC's goal of providing information about the performance of the entire school. It will include data on student proficiency in reading and math, attendance rates, and graduation rates.

"The school accountability report card will give us a gauge of students' performance based on Star Reading Proficiency, Star Math Proficiency, attendance rates, and graduation rates for high school," said Pangelinan.

The SARC helps identify schools that needs improvement and those schools that are excelling. It serves as a tool to highlight schools for improvement and celebrate



Rotary Club of Saipan officers, led by president Joann Aquino, pose for a photo after presenting a certificate of appreciation to Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, third from left.

achievements. It plays a crucial role in supporting schools and students' success. In addition, it was mentioned in the video that the Public Schools System is committed to transparency and improvement.

"As a school district that receives federal funding, it is our responsibility to be transparent with all their stakeholders on how our schools are serving our students. We should

also have performance report available for everyone to see. This way, our community can help us with our shared goal, which is to provide high quality education to all our students," added Pangelinan.

Furthermore, Camacho discussed how PSS plays an important role in preparing students for their future. He said schools should ensure students' stability, enjoy-

ment, and success. Various programs and initiatives are implemented to showcase student achievements and overall school progress.

Camacho mentioned that they are currently working on six strategic priorities that include student success, accountable high-performing systems, effective operations, self-care, exclusives and communication, and community.

What he is working on now with the board and key management is the transformation of the strategic master plan invite and the direction of the school system or school district.

PSS also focuses on the learner's journey from kindergarten to eight grade by identifying gaps and implementing interventions to ensure student success.

According to Camacho, students should learn to read between first and third grade, if they can't read at a comprehensive level by third grade, they may struggle in fourth grade and beyond.

Camacho provided an education system overview and said that CNMI PSS is a very complex organization with 9,000 students, and more than a thousand employees that includes 20 schools—nine elementary, five middle schools, four high schools, and two combined junior and senior/middle and high, and 10 Head Starts.

Camacho mentioned about the positive impact of Head Start on kindergarten readiness as it involves 3- to 5-year-olds and data shows that children who went to Head Start perform better academically in grades 1

to 3 compared to those without pre-school experience.

Camacho added that Head Start prepares the students for the classroom environment and social interactions. They work with organizations to provide support and resources.

According to Camacho, PSS' special education program serves over a thousand students in the school district. The program aims to provide equitable education for students with disabilities. They are implementing interventions to support their learning and independence.

Camacho discussed the functioning of a special education program wherein the central office ensures that every school principal has the necessary resources. The central office provides legal counsel and other support to the schools.

Other topics discussed during the presentation include the preparation needed to meet certain conditions before the school opens and emphasizing the importance of tracking and reporting student outcomes.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann Aquino presented a certificate of appreciation to Camacho at the close of the meeting.

### Call for Nominations

## 2024 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDS



DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: SEPTEMBER 23

### NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- Research & Publication in the Humanities
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI History
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices
- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities



Scan the QR Code to access our online nomination form! Visit our website at <https://www.nmhcouncil.org/gha> to learn more about our nomination process.



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# MANGO attends WHIAANHPI Convening

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Sept. 6, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration hosted the inaugural White House Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Convening. This historic event brought together a diverse group of NHPI community advocates, private sector leaders, elected officials, federal appointees, and artists to celebrate the cultures, achievements, and contributions of NHPI communities across the nation.

The convening underscored the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to addressing the key issues affecting NHPIs. Throughout the day, attendees engaged in panels and discussions focused on critical topics and initiatives aimed at fostering progress in NHPI communities. The event also highlighted important work already underway by the administration in supporting NHPI communities.

Guests arrived at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where the program opened with remarks from key Biden-Harris Administration officials, including Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. This was followed by a fireside chat with U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, setting the tone for meaningful dialogue throughout the event.

A highlight of the day was the NHPI Community Leaders Panel, which featured prominent speakers, including Frances Sablan, executive director of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations. Sablan shared insights on leadership and advocacy within the Pacific Islander communities, with a focus on advancing opportunities for underrepresented groups in the Marianas.

The event continued with a federal agency panel discussing initiatives benefiting NHPIs and celebrated the achievements of NHPI pioneers through a trail-blazers panel. The convening concluded with an open networking session, providing further opportunities for collaboration.

This convening provided a platform to elevate the voices of Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander communities and demonstrated the Administration's dedication to creating pathways for equity, representation, and prosperity for NHPIs.

## About the WHIAANHPI

On May 28, 2021, President Joe Biden signed Executive Order 14031, "Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations executive director Frances Sablan, second right, with WHIAANHPI executive director Krystal Ka'ai, COFA's Melisa Laelan, Taffy Johnson of Health /GBTQIA, Dr. Finausina Tovo, and Karla Thomas.

for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders" to establish the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and deliver on his commitment to reinstate and reinvigorate this historic initiative. The initiative aims to eliminate barriers and improve access to federal programs for Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities by addressing issues like safety, in-

clusion, and health disparities. It promotes public education on AA and NHPI cultures, enhances data collection, expands economic opportunities, improves educational outcomes, and ensures language access. The initiative also focuses on housing, workforce development, civic engagement, and equitable distribution of federal resources, while addressing the impact of climate change and fostering AA and NHPI leadership in

the federal workforce.

## About MANGO

The Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations is a coalition dedicated to the advocacy and advancement of community-driven initiatives in the Marianas. MANGO focuses on environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic development, working collaboratively with various stakeholders to achieve these goals. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations executive director Frances Sablan, middle, with Dr. Finausina Tovo, right, and Karla Thomas.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**  
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Tel No: (670) 664-4808/09 Fax: (670) 664-4814  
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Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

## AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/08/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
  - Request for CEUs for post-doc courses to count towards CE credits for approval (Dr. George)
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - Total Reviewed = \_\_\_\_\_ New Application = \_\_\_\_\_
  - Renewal = \_\_\_\_\_ Pending = \_\_\_\_\_
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Next Meeting Date
  - B. Adjournment of Meeting



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

### Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### CUC-RFP-24-019

### LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email [vicente.deleonguerrero@cucgov.org](mailto:vicente.deleonguerrero@cucgov.org), and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

### CNMI GOVERNMENT



## INVITATION TO BID

### ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400147

SUBMISSION DATE: October 11, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

## "Agatan Stream/South Achugao Drainage Improvements."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **September 10, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on October 07, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL  
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



# Island-wide outage caused by emergency engine shut down

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had to initiate an emergency shut down of Power Plant 1's Engine 7 due to unidentified issues causing the island-wide power outage last Sunday evening.

In a brief interview with

CUC executive director Kevin Watson, he shared that late last Sunday evening, an island-wide power outage occurred when operators of Power Plant 1 initiated an emergency stop on Engine 7 after hearing a loud noise coming from it. The emergency stop resulted in a cascading effect on all other Power Plants and

feeders to protect the Power Plants' current system.

"The problem wasn't with the feeder. It was with the engine. Last night, at Power Plant 1, the operators on duty heard a loud noise coming from diesel Engine 7. Upon hearing that, to keep catastrophic damage from occurring, operators hit the emergency stop

button. When they did that, it caused a chain reaction of the system shutting down island wide. Immediately after that, they brought another engine in place of Engine 7 as it needed to be assessed, and they immediately got the standby engine up and running and started bringing the feeders back online. We always try to have a

backup so when you lose one, you switch to another backup engine," he said.

Currently, Watson said, Engine 7 is still under assessment.

Watson says the way CUC's current power system is designed, once the emergency stop button is pushed on any one of CUC's en-

gines, it shuts down all feeders as a safety measure.

"The system did what it was supposed to do when the operators hit that emergency shut down so that there wasn't any damage to the engine then they bring in the standby engine and got it back up and running. The system automatically brought the feeders back online starting with Feeder 1 which serves the hospital," he said.

## STAR

From page 1

board chair Robert Christian sent a letter to CPA board chair Jose Ayuyu informing the agency that Star Marianas will no longer be tolerating its "scheme to bypass federal fee setting regulations" by "coercing airlines into compliance with non-compensatory fees."

"I am writing to formally and unequivocally object to the unethical and coercive tactics employed by the CPA under the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 40, Subchapter 40-10.1: Airport Rules and Regulations (NMIAC 40-10.1). It is abundantly clear that the CPA, in coordination with its legal counsel and consultants, has engaged in a deliberate scheme to bypass federal fee setting regulations, coerce airlines into compliance with non-compensatory fees, and subvert the principles of fairness mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration. This egregious behavior cannot and will not be tolerated," he said.

Christian informed Ayuyu that Star Marianas intends to file a formal complaint with

the FAA and will be demanding an investigation into CPA's fee-setting practices.

"We will be filing a formal complaint with the FAA, calling for an immediate investigation into the CPA's fee-setting practices, its use of the Letter of Authorization process, and its clear violations of Grant Assurances 22 and 24. The FAA has the authority to launch a comprehensive investigation into these practices," he said.

Christian adds that Star Marianas will be urging the FAA to take corrective action to include sanctions and penalties.

"We will be urging the FAA to take corrective action, including but not limited to: the invalidation of NMIAC 40-10.1, the imposition of penalties or sanctions on the CPA for its abusive fee-setting practices, and a requirement that the CPA return to a transparent, compensatory fee model that complies with FAA standards," he said.

In his letter, Christian explains that CPA's requirement that airlines must accept all CPA rules and regulations, including the fee setting methodology, upon issuance of a Letter of Authorization, is

a blatant act of coercion designed to eliminate any opportunity for airlines to negotiate or challenge its terms.

By linking operational access to this acceptance, Christian said, CPA has created a scenario in which airlines are left with no choice but to accept CPA's demands or risk losing access to critical airport infrastructure.

"This is not only coercive but represents an abuse of regulatory power and au-

thority. FAA Order 5190.6B, Chapter 18, explicitly mandates that non-compensatory fee-setting models must be mutually agreed upon. The CPA's approach, which forces airlines to accept terms under duress, flagrantly violates this requirement. CPA's insistence that airlines automatically accept these terms upon receipt of the LOA, without any opportunity for review, negotiation, or objection, is nothing short of a viola-

tion of the FAA's regulatory framework," he said.

In addition, Christian claims CPA, its legal counsel, and its outside consultants are "colluding" to impose a fee structure that not only circumvents federal regulations but also serves their mutual financial interests at the expense of the airlines.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## THIEVES

From page 1

15-passenger vans.

Manacop shared that CIB has informed him an arrest is expected soon, but the cases are still under investigation. He added that DPS asks the public to remain vigilant, stay safe, and encourages community members to report any suspicious activity they may see, either to DPS or to NMI Crimestoppers.

*Saipan Tribune* was also able to speak to Navy Hill resident Mila Cultura, one of the victims of the tire thieves, and she shared that the incident has not only made their family uneasy, but has affected their neighbors as well.

She said her daughter was the one that discovered the missing tires last Sept 10 at 7:30am. Cultura said that thieves had stolen both tires and rims on the right side of the vehicle and left it propped up with hallow blocks to appear normal from one side. She shared that she had been a resident at the apartment for 21 years and this was the first time this had happened.

"It causes a lot of stress," she said, adding that since the incident, her neighbors were also on edge checking their cars each morning. "It's like no one is safe."

She shared that their 2021 Toyota CHR's two tires and rims had an estimated value of \$3,000.

"It's not only us," she said noting that she heard a same model car in Chalan Kanoa had its tires and rims stolen on the same side of the car at around the same time and perhaps even the same day.

"Maybe it's the same person," she said

Cultura shared that she hopes the thieves would get caught soon and urges her fellow community members to stay safe.

"Stay vigilant, try to make your place safe, and check everything and make sure it's safe because we may never know. Thieves also target inside the home and not just outside."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## VISITOR

From page 1

visitors, fiscal year-to-date arrivals are 27% higher compared to last year, showing continued gradual recovery.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 16,031 in August, 21% lower than August 2023. In August 2023, the Marianas had received an extraordinarily high number of visitors and flights from South Korea—147 flights from Seoul-Incheon and Busan combined—when flights to Guam were transferred to Saipan following a major ty-

phoon in Guam. August 2024 saw 111 flights from Seoul-Incheon marking a return to average visitor arrivals for the month. Visitors from Korea comprise 75% of all arrivals to the Marianas.

Visitor arrivals from Japan registered 800 in August 2024 compared to 960 visitors in August 2023, a 17% decrease. The strong U.S. dollar and weaker Japanese yen continue to influence travelers to choose non-U.S. or domestic destinations. United Airlines flies three times weekly from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan as the MVA works to remain top-of-mind among consum-

ers until conditions for overseas travel improve.

China arrivals in August 2024 reached 2,319 compared to 1,055 arrivals in August 2023. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Hong Kong Airlines now flies twice weekly between Hong Kong and Saipan.

In August, the Marianas also received 1,163 visitors for the United States—including two ship arrivals, 852 visitors from Guam, and a combined 448 visitors from all other markets. (PR)

## CALMER

From page 1

Weather Service report issued from the Weather Forecast Office in Tiyan, Guam, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert yesterday morning for a developing disturbance, Invest 97W, when it was located just west-northwest of Guam.

It noted that the disturbance has been given a "high" probability for tropical cyclone development, saying that things could potentially escalate into a tropical depression within 24 hours of the report.

As of 6am yesterday, Invest 97W was centered near 13.7N 144.2E, drifting northward with a projected turn toward the northwest later yesterday, away from the Marianas. While it is not expected to make direct landfall, the disturbance is generating significant monsoon conditions across Guam and the CNMI. Yesterday morning, residents across Saipan and other parts of the CNMI woke up to inten-

sifying winds, which peaked in the afternoon.

"97W poses no direct threat to the Mariana Islands, despite its close proximity. However, it will influence the monsoon, which has been surging across the region since overnight, and will continue to do so through early Tuesday morning," said NWS Warning Coordination meteorologist Marcus Landon Aydlett.

"Impacts will be similar to last week: Tents, canopies, tarps, trash bins, lawn furniture, campaign signs, and other loose outdoor items. Please be advised of the many hazards in play across the region, with a number of watches, warnings and advisories currently in effect. This should be the last hurrah of this spell of wet weather and strong winds for the last couple weeks, with better weather for the last half of the week," he added.

In the report yesterday, Saipan's airport recorded sustained winds of 20-30 mph, with gusts reaching a startling 49 mph at 9am. As the storm pulls away, the report indicates that Invest 97W continues to

drive powerful monsoon surges, bringing heavy rains and winds of up to 50 mph to the region.

Meanwhile, the report also stated that Guam has experienced relatively calmer conditions outside of rain showers, but gusts of up to 30 mph have been reported during moderate to heavy downpours.

The region is under a High Wind Warning and Gale Warning until 6am today. Additionally, a High Surf Advisory and Flood Watch remain in effect for Guam and the CNMI, with warnings extending to Yap and Palau.

Residents are urged to secure loose items, especially outside, and avoid coastal areas, where seas will be rough. In addition, the CNMI Public School System shared that classes will resume again today as improved conditions are expected this afternoon, while Invest 97W continues its northward movement.

Calmer skies are also forecasted by midweek.

For more information or updates, visit the National Weather Service's website at [weather.gov/gum](http://weather.gov/gum).



**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400113**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2024    TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**“SAN ANTONIO INDOOR BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING SERVICES”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

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**/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.**  
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



# MVA seeks new partners at PATA Travel Mart 2024



MVA

## 'Avoid CNMI & IRS tax issues, attend tax workshop'

The Division of Revenue and Taxation invites all business owners and self-employed individuals to attend a tax workshop providing in-depth guidance on common CNMI and IRS tax issues seen by CNMI business owners and self-employed individuals and how to protect from costly penalties and interest.

This event will be held on Sept. 18 and again on Sept. 21 from 11:30am to 1pm at Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant, delivering tips to help taxpayers to avoid common tax mistakes and stay compliant with local regulations.

The workshop will focus on these topics: IRS Filing Requirements for Self-Employed CNMI Residents & Employers, Foreign Bank Account Reporting Obligations, Defending an ERC Audit or Disallowance, Tax Collection Issues & Alternatives (IRS + CNMI), Offer in Compromise Program, Penalty Abatement, Installment Agreement, Common Penalties Assessed Against CNMI Businesses and How to Avoid Them, Addressing Misclassified Workers Before the IRS Does, and learning New Filing Requirements for Most Businesses Under the Corporate Transparency Act.

You must register to attend. <https://allevents.in/saipan/avoiding-cnmi-and-irs-tax-issues-a-workshop-for-business-owners-and-self-employed-individuals/80009742472096>.

This workshop is free for current or former clients of Azarvand Tax Law (and a plus one of their choice).

All other attendees will need to pay \$10 (payable to Pepoy's Cafe & Restaurant upon arrival).

For more information, contact DOF at (670) 664-1040 or [revtaxinfo@dof.gov.mp](mailto:revtaxinfo@dof.gov.mp). (PR)

Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing manager Thomas Kim, second right, leads the Marianas delegation in exhibiting alongside Micronesia partners Palau and Guam at PATA Travel Mart 2024 on Aug. 27-29, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. The trade show attracted over 900 delegates from 45 destinations, including 266 exhibitors from 168 organizations and 24 destinations.

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2024 held in Bangkok, Thailand last month to seek new travel trade partners.

As part of the trade show held from Aug. 27-29, 2024, the MVA met with 24 representatives of tour operators and hotels. The Marianas shared a Visit Micronesia space with Palau and Guam.

Since its establishment in

1951 the non-profit Pacific Asia Travel Association has expanded its membership to more than 90 world-wide representing aviation, hospitality, government and other sectors. It serves as catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region, including The Marianas.

"PATA Travel Mart is one of Asia Pacific's longest standing international travel trade

exhibitions and an excellent opportunity for networking and contracting opportunities to access decision-makers, meet new clients, expand our networks, and establish new relationships," said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. "Especially as we were

able to make appointments from B2B meetings before the expo, we were able to be strategic and focused in promoting the Marianas to potential new partners."

The MVA met individually with 24 businesses during the event, as well as PATA man-

ager of Membership Relations Weiham Xu and PATA CEO Noor Ahmad Hamid. Based on information shared about opportunities in the Marianas, potential partners will be able to decide if they would like to pursue business opportunities in the destination. (PR)



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing manager Thomas Kim, right, shares details about the Marianas with a prospective buyer at PATA Travel Mart 2024 on Aug. 27-29, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. The trade show attracted over 900 attendees and included 24 individualized B2B meetings for the MVA with prospective tourism partners.



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority Product Development manager Raquel Aguon, left, shares information about the Marianas to attendees of PATA Travel Mart 2024 on Aug. 27-29, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition to over 900 attendees of the trade show, the MVA had 24 individualized B2B meetings with prospective tourism partners.

## Army Chief of Staff visits Guam

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—The 41st Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Randy George and Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer visited the U.S. territory of Guam on Sept. 8, 2024. The visit included meetings with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Guam Congressman James Moylan, senior military leaders, and troops.

The visit from the senior-ranking U.S. Army official comes during a period of military buildup on Guam, which is strategically located in the western Pacific about 1,700 miles from Taiwan. Among the buildup plans are the 360-degree air and missile defense plan, intended to protect the 200-square-mile island and its 150,000 U.S. citizens.

At the Guam National Guard headquarters, Gen.

George discussed local infrastructure and environmental concerns with Leon Guerrero. Leon Guerrero addressed Guam's ongoing struggles with power generation, roadways, healthcare, housing, and cost of living.

Brig. Gen. Michael Cruz, adjutant general of the Guam Guard, together with Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, proposed increasing the role of Guam Army National Guardsmen, who would not require additional housing or infrastructure.

"You will not find more motivated defenders of the homeland than those who already live here with their families," said Tenorio.

After meeting with the Guam governor, George and Weimer presided over a reenlistment ceremony



GUNG

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, left, meets with Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy George at the Guam National Guard headquarters, Sept. 8, 2024. The leaders discussed infrastructure and environmental concerns with the Guam military buildup and the potential role of the Guam Guard.

of 13 Guam Guardsmen. Among the re-enlistees was Master Sgt. Jonathan Guzman and family.

"I extended for six more years to defend Guam and the Marianas, and also to honor my family legacy," said Guzman.

"I'm following in the footsteps of my father, 1st Sgt. (R) Gene Guzman and passing the values of commitment and service to my sons, Spc. Aiden Guzman and Sgt. Christian Guzman. To have the CSA and SMA

here alongside my family is something I'll never forget."

After the re-enlistment ceremony, the CSA and SMA took an aerial tour of the island with the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, ending at Guam's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system. Operated by Task Force Talon, composed of members from the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the Guam National Guard, the THAAD protects the 150,000 U.S. citizens of Guam from ballistic threats.

At the THAAD site, CSA and SMA received capabilities briefs, toured the compound, and performed another re-enlistment ceremony for Soldiers of Echo Battery, Task Force Talon. Gen. George thanked the soldiers for their continued service, and for doing their part to defend the homeland. (PR)



GUNG

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy George, left, re-enlists soldiers of Task Force Talon, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Guam, Sept. 8, 2024. Soldiers of Talon, which include activated members of the Guam National Guard, operate the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system charged with defending the 150,000 U.S. citizens of the western Pacific island.



GUNG

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, left, with Master Sgt. Jonathan Guzman, assigned to the Guam Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, celebrate Guzman's six-year enlistment extension with members of his family, Guam, Sept. 8, 2024.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!  
**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 186

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Presidential race remains close after fiery debate

The reason both leading presidential candidates have favorability ratings under 50% was on full display during Tuesday's presidential debate.

Start with former President Donald Trump. Coming into the debate, his job was simple. Inform voters of Vice President Kamala Harris' radical record and remind them that things were better when he was in office. He had his moments.

Early in the debate, Harris attacked Trump for being too soft on China.

"Everything that she believed three years ago and four years ago is out the window," he said. "She's going to my philosophy now. In fact, I was going to send her a MAGA hat."

His closing statement was also extremely effective. Regarding her many promises, he asked, "Why hasn't she done it? She's been there for three and a half years."

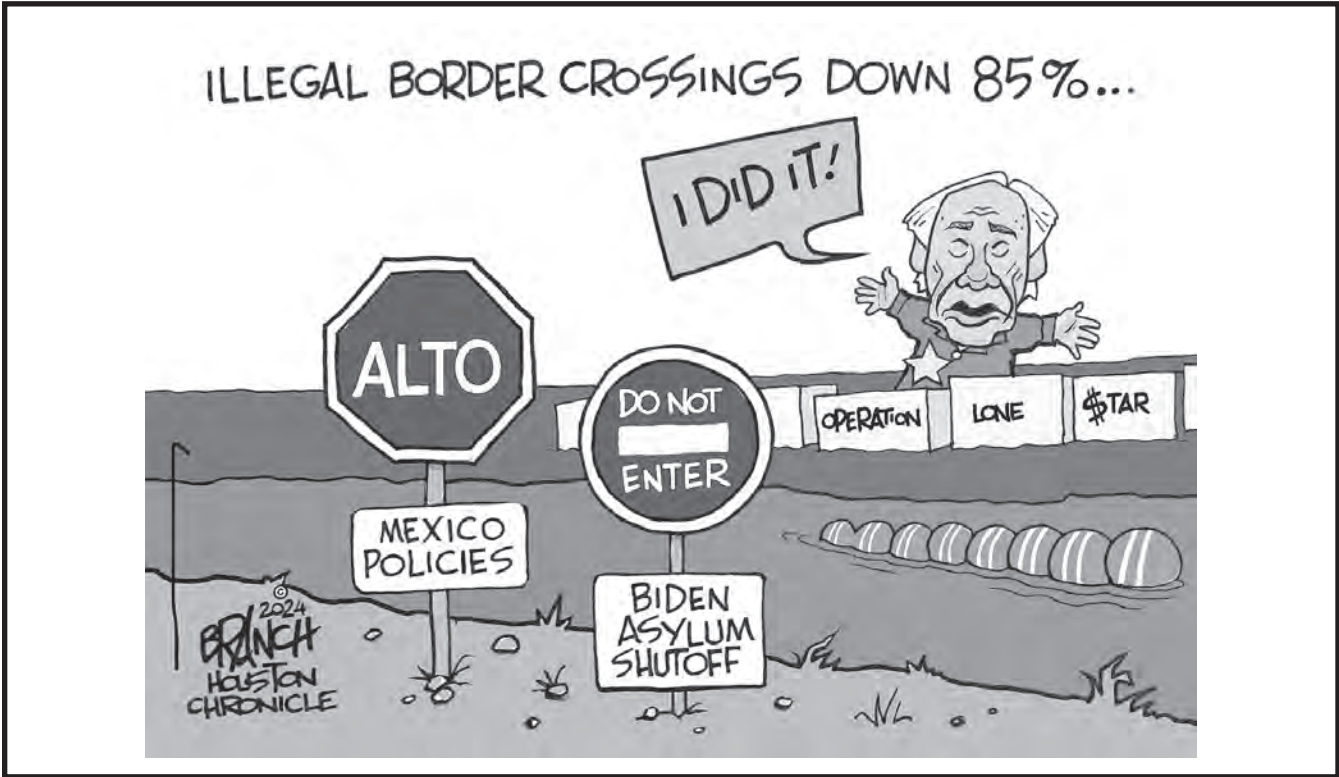
Had Trump been disciplined enough to stick to those themes, he would have easily won the debate. Instead, he allowed Harris to bait him with obviously planned jabs about his rallies and inheritance. Trump followed her right down those rabbit holes, often appearing angry and annoyed. He did repeatedly bring up immigration, crime and the economy. But he should have spent more time bringing up her past policy positions.

Trump missed opportunities, but the debate is unlikely to hurt his standing. Most obviously, the debate moderators actively worked against him. They inaccurately fact-checked him. They aggressively pressed him in follow-ups. They cut him off frequently. In contrast, they generally lobbed beach balls to Harris. When they did ask her a rare tough question—like on her many flip-flops—they didn't follow-up when she dodged. They didn't fact-check her, even though she unleashed numerous falsehoods.

If you were scoring the debate on points, ABC's bias undoubtedly helped Harris. But with persuadable voters, it may have been counterproductive. In The New York Times' recent poll, more than a quarter of likely voters wanted to know more about Harris. She made it clear during the debate that she isn't Trump but offered few details on her own agenda. Rhetoric about the "opportunity economy" rings hollow when people just want the opportunity to buy affordable groceries.

She did little to separate herself from the failed policies of the Biden-Harris administration. Talking about her values when asked to explain her shifting positions wasn't illuminating either. If Harris were leading by 5 points in swing states, avoiding specifics would have made political sense. But she's not.

Before the debate, the race was a toss-up. After the debate, the race remains a toss-up.



What Donald Trump's incomprehensible word salad about child care revealed

In the United States, most parents of young children work, most need help caring for their children, and most cannot depend on family members to pitch in.

So wouldn't you think that providing affordable, high-quality child care to American families is a no-brainer? I mean, we've done it before. Why can't we do it again?

Indulge me for a brief history lesson:

Eighty years ago, when American GIs were fighting fascism overseas, women were recruited in droves to work in shipyards and factories, where they filled all sorts of jobs traditionally held by men. More than 6 million women worked as welders, operated heavy machinery and did other factory work. They made tanks, ships and planes. Three million women volunteered with the Red Cross. More than 200,000 served in the military.

And who took care of their babies and toddlers? For the first and only time in American history, Congress spent tens of millions of dollars to fund universal child care, enabling state governments and private companies to create hundreds of workplace "war nurseries." An estimated 550,000 young children were enrolled in them, allowing their mothers to become full-fledged citizens.

On the West Coast, the industrialist and healthcare visionary Henry J. Kaiser hired child development experts to set up what became model versions of child-care centers at his shipyards. The experts tested theories that helped inform and expand the field of early-childhood education.

When the war ended, however, the federal money dried up. All those Rosie the Riveters were banished back to their kitchens, even though a majority wanted to keep their jobs.

The culture then invented the fairy tale that a woman's true fulfillment comes from motherhood and homemaking, a notion that reached its apogee in the 1950s and early '60s. The 1963 publication of Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" helped pierce that myth and nudge the country into the second wave of American feminism.

In 1971, as more women were entering the workforce again, Congress passed the Comprehensive Child Development Act. It's almost shocking to contemplate it today: The bill authorized a multibillion-dollar national day-care system designed partly to help working single parents reduce their dependence on welfare.

The groundbreaking legislation soon fell victim to Cold War anxieties: Critics said it would "Sovietize" American children and allow the government to control families. (When you think of how Republicans have rolled back reproductive rights, this is laughable.) President Richard Nixon vetoed the bill.

And here we are today, mired in a patchwork system of child care that is sometimes affordable or high-quality but is almost never both.

Which brings us to the presidential race.

Last week, former President Donald Trump was asked what specific piece of legislation he would advance to make child care affordable. His rambling, incoherent answer was so bizarre and

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**  
Los Angeles Times



off-point that it went viral.

When his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, was asked a similar question, the answer was more coherent but almost as strange. After urging grandparents and other relatives to pitch in more, Vance falsely suggested that child-care providers are over-regulated and required to have "a six-year college degree." (In fact, most child-care providers are women who do not have college degrees and are woefully underpaid.) Vance has characterized universal child care as "class warfare against normal people."

Trump does not address child care specifically in his platform. Instead, he vows to promote a culture "that values the Sanctity of Marriage, the blessings of childhood, the foundational role of families." He further promises to "end policies that punish families."

Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation blueprint for a second Trump term, says nothing about high-quality, affordable child care, but it does call for eliminating the Department of Education and preschool programs such as Head Start, a cornerstone of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty.

By contrast, Vice President Kamala Harris has called for increasing the child tax credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600, which Republicans oppose. She also has proposed a new \$6,000 benefit for parents of newborns. Her platform calls for access to high-quality, affordable child care, provided by workers who earn a living wage.

During a Senate subcommittee hearing last year about the expiration of billions of dollars of pandemic-era child-care funding, Louisiana Republican Sen. John Kennedy said that opposing affordable child care "is like being opposed to golden retrievers." But, he asked labor economist Kathryn Anne Edwards, an expert on the child-care crisis, how on Earth should we pay for it?

She was succinct: "The majority of federal revenue comes from taxes, so if you need more money, you'll have to raise taxes. I'll remind you, sir, that we have had two massive, trillion-dollar tax cuts in the past 20 years, and they have done nothing to make child care more affordable. ... They have not been invested in children."

That is the reality of child care in America. We all want it, but those who control the purse strings refuse to pay for it.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Trump's worst debate moments came on abortion, health care

Throughout Tuesday night's hour and 45-minute debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump perpetuated a number of lies and half-truths about his record on health care—and seemed unable to offer Americans a concrete vision for how he would secure a healthier future for the country, instead referring only to “concepts of a plan.”

The most egregious falsehood came when Trump was backed into a corner on his flip-flopping position on abortion. He leaned into a fiction he has repeated throughout his campaign: that Democrats want to allow “post-birth abortions.” During the debate, he even claimed Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, “says abortion in the ninth month is absolutely fine. He also says execution after birth, it's execution, no longer abortion, because the baby is born, is OK.”

Hopefully most rational voters understand what moderator Linsey Davis noted after Trump's tirade: “There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it's born.”

Trump's lies about post-birth abortions are especially cruel because, as best I can understand, he is deliberately taking out of context tragic circumstances where a baby is delivered and is too sick to survive—and parents must make the heartbreaking decision to pursue palliative care.

And by ending the protections of *Roe v. Wade*, the justices appointed to the Supreme Court by Trump have ensured that more families must confront those choices. In the year after the court allowed Texas' abortion ban to stand, infant deaths rose by roughly 13%, or 255 babies. That included a nearly 23% rise in deaths due to congenital anomalies. That means some women were likely forced to carry a child to term that they knew was going to die after birth.

Trump also slammed “late-term” abortions. But in the exceedingly rare case that someone is undergoing an abortion later in a pregnancy, it's typically because the baby or mother are not going to survive if the pregnancy continues.

Yet Trump falsely portrayed these cases as situations in which a woman in the “eighth month, ninth month, seventh month”

of pregnancy cavalierly decides to end a healthy pregnancy. That's a twisted fantasy of the far-right. When there's a medical emergency late in a pregnancy, as one fetal maternal medicine specialist told me plainly, “if the fetus is viable, we're going to deliver it.”

Another glaring health care falsehood perpetuated by Trump last night was the notion that he had somehow helped to improve the Affordable Care Act. Although he had run on the premise that he would do away with Obamacare, Trump claimed that when faced with the choice to “save it and make it as good as it can be” or to “let it rot,” he “did the right thing.”

In reality, Trump made a number of calculated moves to undermine the ACA, like cutting the subsidies that helped lure insurers into the marketplace. He also made it harder for people to access public insurance options by cutting funding to advertise enrollments, shortening the enrollment window, and slashing by 80% funding to the navigator program, which helps people choose the right plan. As a consequence, ACA enrollments, which had been rising under the Obama administration as the marketplace gained momentum, fell throughout Trump's presidency.

When President Joe Biden took office, he restored funding to those programs and opened a special enrollment period to offer another chance to people who had missed out under Trump, while also expanding subsidies and introducing tax credits that made care more affordable. That strategy worked and ACA sign-ups began to climb, with the percentage of uninsured Americans eventually hitting an all-time low in 2023.

The question before voters now is how Trump will approach health care if he wins another term. While he continues to take jabs at the ACA and float the idea that he would entertain alternatives if they were better and cheaper, he hasn't offered anything concrete.

Trump also claimed that his administration “did a phenomenal job with the pandemic,” despite ample evidence that he impeded public health experts' ability to effectively respond to the crisis. That included undermining the value of masks — a stance that

By **LISA JARVIS**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.*



epidemiologists believe cost lives, as well as attempting to slow down the rollout of testing and promoting unproven and even dangerous therapies. And one analysis found that his health care policies leading into Covid's arrival exacerbated the death toll during the first year of the pandemic.

Trump curiously did not mention the one area of the pandemic where he unambiguously succeeded: Operation Warp Speed. It yielded vaccines and treatments with breathtaking speed, and ultimately saved millions of lives. Yet with deep pockets of his base fixated on the imaginary dangers of these shots, Trump seems reluctant to remind voters of that amazing scientific achievement.

Trump's omissions and fabrications on health care may have been overshadowed by a more meme-able moment: Trump's bizarre quip that Harris “wants to do transgender operations on illegal aliens that are in prison.” This struck many viewers as a Mad Libs-style riff on Trump's favorite divisive issues — transgender medicine, crime and immigration. It's hard to tell, but the word salad may have been a misleading nod to Harris' response to a 2019 candidate questionnaire provided by the American Civil Liberties Union, which asked about providing comprehensive health care to transgender people who rely on the state for medical care.

That moment—like “concepts of a plan”—will likely stick with many voters as a memorable example of the way Trump slid off the rails on Tuesday. But what will stick with me is the cruelty behind all of Trump's health care lies.

## What can the US do to stabilize its relationship with China?

National security adviser Jake Sullivan's recent trip to Beijing is a good sign that President Joe Biden's administration is taking U.S.-China relations seriously. While the visit did not result in any bilateral agreements, the two leaders agreed on having a near-term phone call.

As the fifth meeting between Sullivan and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the last two years, the visit at least shows that diplomatic channels are open. The selection of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a qualified China hand, as the Democratic vice presidential candidate, moreover, seems to offer more evidence that Democrats now understand the stakes in this most pivotal bilateral relationship.

This has not always been the case. Many China watchers had the initial hope that the Biden administration would set the bilateral relationship on a more steady, predictable path after the volatile Donald Trump years when U.S.-China relations seemed to careen from crisis to crisis. However, they were substantially disappointed by the Biden administration's first foray into China diplomacy when an early, high-level summit meeting in 2021 seemed to devolve into an acrimonious shouting match. More concretely, the Biden administration has seemingly chosen to adopt many of the hardline policies of its predecessor. The wide-ranging tariffs on Chinese exports have been maintained. Likewise, bellicose policies toward Beijing have continued to be pervasive in Biden's Pentagon with a full embrace of Trump's policies of “Great Power Competition” and also the “Indo-Pacific Strategy.”

To be sure, one of the major aggravating issues now in U.S.-China relations is the new global strategic environment resulting from Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Although Beijing professes neutrality and has not sent arms to Russia, Chinese diplomats still evince substantial sympathy for the Kremlin and the Biden administration has dubbed China as the foremost “enabler” of the war since its ballooning trade with Russia helps to oil Moscow's war machine.

Washington has just levied new sanctions against Chinese

companies due to their ongoing relationship with Russian entities involved in the war effort. Despite such pressures, the U.S. and China still managed to achieve well over half a trillion in bilateral trade during 2023. Yet, the present administration has rebranded the “decoupling” policy as “de-risking” and acted to define major new limits on U.S.-China commercial contacts, especially in the domain of high-tech. In particular, the CHIPS Act could be Biden's most important legacy for China policy in that it sought to hinder the ability of Beijing's corporations to fabricate advanced microchips.

With respect to the volatile issue of Taiwan, the situation evinces ever more tendencies toward escalation and even spinning out of control. Hope for a more balanced approach resting on “guardrails,” were dashed when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022, setting off large-scale Chinese military exercises around the island. The new pervasiveness of drone weapons (an area of Chinese military strength), as well as Beijing's willingness to pressure Taiwan suggest that the Taiwan issue could experience even more instability in the near future. President Biden has said no less than four times that he would defend Taiwan. But these brazen assertions, a departure from Washington's traditional policy of “strategic ambiguity,” come against the backdrop of Beijing's rapid buildup of both its navy and its nuclear forces. Are the two superpowers careening toward a direct military conflict?

While the Biden administration is to be commended for keeping direct and high-level lines of communication open with Beijing, including with the latest Sullivan visit, the current administration has quite clearly failed to stabilize the superpower relationship in any fundamental way. Looking toward a new administration in Washington in 2025, some pragmatic steps are required to put U.S.-China relations back on track to steer it away from the militarized rivalry now so entrenched and to diminish the growing chances of catastrophic war.

Above all, Washington should embrace realism and restraint by signaling a return to “strategic ambiguity” and much stricter

By **LYLE GOLDSTEIN**

Chicago Tribune

*Lyle Goldstein is director of Asia engagement at Washington think tank Defense Priorities.*








conformity with the “one China policy” first skillfully developed by Richard Nixon's administration to extricate the U.S. from the Chinese Civil War. Moreover, Washington should douse regional tensions by resisting the temptation to pour ever more U.S. military forces into the western Pacific, for example, into the Philippines where the U.S. is quite provocatively upgrading bases closest to the Taiwan Strait.

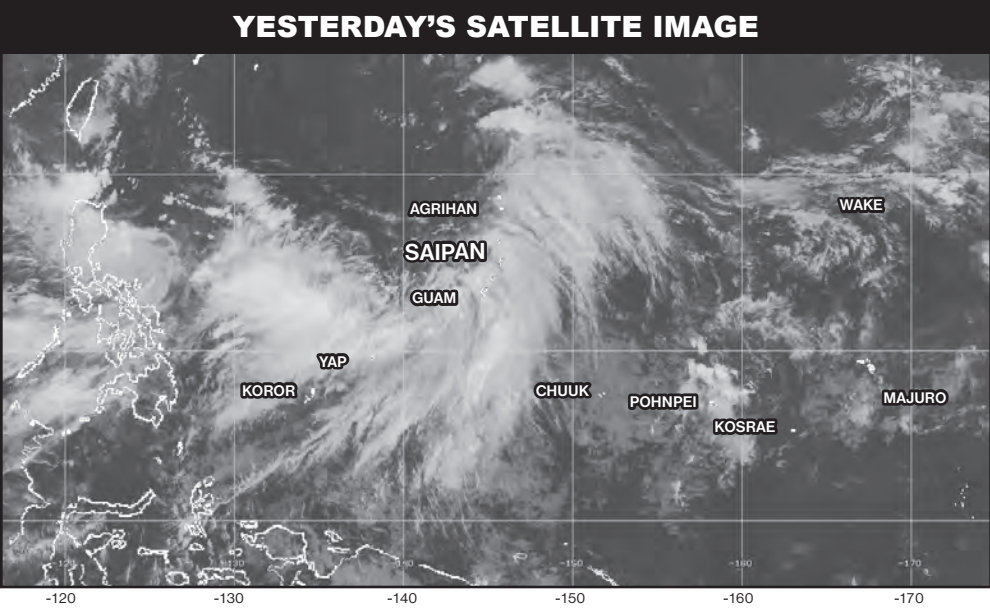
Regarding the Ukraine war, the U.S. should reform its accusatory approach toward Beijing and it may have to even agree that China could play a useful role as a mediator—a role Kyiv seems to have recognized recently. Policy innovation will be required to try to stabilize the new U.S.-China race in nuclear weapons development, and this should include full consideration of Beijing's proposals. Finally, high-tech will remain a problem area, but there is no reason not to move forward more robustly in other areas of commercial promise, from agriculture to infrastructure.

A Chinese analysis on the eve of the Sullivan visit raised the interesting point that this visit might constitute the U.S. national security adviser's first-ever official trip to China. This points to a problematic issue. Like Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Sullivan's background suggests little acquaintance with the Asia-Pacific region and a traditional focus on Europe with some background in the Middle East as well. For more effective U.S. foreign policy in the 21st century, Washington may have to look for leaders with a much deeper knowledge of Asia.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Cloudy. Frequent heavy showers. Isolated thunderstorms. south winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
86°	77°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°	85°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 , 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas weather for today will be dominated by the circulation currently known as Invest Area 97W. Look for cloudy skies, frequent heavy showers, scattered thunderstorms, and strong to near gale winds. Warnings will be going out at around 8 AM. For waves, used a blend of GFSWave and NWPS, then added a foot based on current performance versus the buoy. For winds used a broad model blend, as all were fairly similar. Then biased the upper end of the range and the gusts upward to account for high elevation areas such as Wireless Ridge.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Rain/Wind	82° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 76°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:52 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	-	5:53 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	-	6:53 AM	7:09 PM
Friday	-	7:53 AM	7:54 PM
Saturday	-	8:55 AM	8:41 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	80° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Showers in the Vicinity	90° / 78°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 63°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
New York	Fair	78° / 64°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°	
Paris	Fair	68° / 46°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°	
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 71°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 78°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	83° / 64°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:44 AM	Low Tide	0.99	
6:06 AM	High Tide	2.04	
1:00 PM	Low Tide	-0.10	
7:33 PM	High Tide	2.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Nation

## Trump subject of apparent assassination attempt

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Donald Trump was the target of what the FBI said “appears to be an attempted assassination” at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday, just nine weeks after the Republican presidential nominee survived another attempt on his life. The former president said he was safe and well, and authorities held a man in custody.

U.S. Secret Service agents stationed a few holes up from where Trump was playing noticed the muzzle of an AK-style rifle sticking through the shrubbery that lines the course, roughly 400 yards away.

An agent fired and the gunman dropped the rifle and fled in an SUV, leaving the firearm behind along with two backpacks, a scope used for aiming and a GoPro camera, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said. The man was later stopped by law enforcement in a neighboring county.

It was the latest jarring moment in a campaign year marked by unprecedented upheaval. On July 13, Trump

was shot during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and a bullet grazed his ear. Eight days later, Democratic President Joe Biden withdrew from the race, giving way for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the party’s nominee.

And it spawned new questions about Secret Service protective operations after the agency’s admitted failures in preventing the assassination attempt this summer.

The man who was detained had a calm, flat demeanor and showed little emotion when he was stopped, according to Martin County Sheriff William Snyder.

“He never asked, ‘What is this about?’ Obviously, law enforcement with long rifles, blue lights, a lot going on. He never questioned it,” Snyder said.

In an email to supporters, Trump said: “There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!” He wrote: “Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!”



Sheriff vehicles are pictured near Trump International Golf Club, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Fla., after gunshots were reported in the vicinity of Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump.

He returned to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach where he lives, according to a person familiar with Trump’s movements who was not authorized to discuss them publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear how the development would affect his schedule or campaign dynamics. Trump was set to speak from Florida about cryptocurrency live on Monday night on the social media site X and had stops planned Tuesday and Wednesday in Michigan and on New York’s Long Island.

An email to Trump campaign staffers obtained by AP said, “We ask that you remain vigilant in your daily

comings and goings.”

“As we enter the last 50 days of President Trump’s campaign, we must remember that we will only be able to save America from those who seek to destroy it by working together as one team.”

Biden and Harris were briefed on the matter and each issued a statement condemning political violence. Harris’ added that she was “deeply disturbed” by the day’s events and that “we all

must do our part to ensure that this incident does not lead to more violence.”

Biden said he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service “has every resource, capability and protective measure necessary to ensure the former President’s continued safety.”

In the aftermath, Trump checked in with allies, including running mate Ohio Sen. JD Vance, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and several Fox News hosts. House Speaker Mike Johnson said he spent several hours with Trump and called him “unstoppable.”

Fox News host Sean Hannity recounted on air his conversation with the former president’s golf partner, Steve Witkoff.

They had been on the fifth hole and about to go up to putt when they heard a “pop pop, pop pop.” Within seconds, he said Witkoff recounted, Secret Service agents “pounced” on Trump and “covered him” to protect him.

Trump had returned to Florida this weekend from a West Coast swing that included a Friday night rally in Las Vegas and a Utah fundraiser. His campaign had not announced any public plans for Trump on Sunday. He often spends the morning playing golf.

## TikTok heads to court over US law that could lead to a ban on the popular platform

The U.S. government and TikTok will go head-to-head in federal court on Monday as oral arguments begin in a consequential legal case that will determine if—or how—a popular social media platform used by nearly half of all Americans will continue to operate in the country.

Attorneys for the two sides will appear before a panel of judges at the federal appeals court in Washington. TikTok and its China-based parent company, ByteDance, are challenging a U.S. law that requires them to break ties or face a ban in the U.S. by mid-January. The legal battle is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

The law, signed by President Joe Biden in April, was a culmination of a years-long saga in Washington over the short-form video-sharing app, which the government sees as a national security threat due to its connections to China. But TikTok argues the law runs afoul of the First Amendment while other opponents claim it mirrors crackdowns sometimes seen in authoritarian countries abroad.

In court documents submitted over the summer, the Justice Department emphasized the government’s two primary

concerns. First, TikTok collects vast swaths of user data, including sensitive information on viewing habits, that could fall into the hands of the Chinese government through coercion. Second, the U.S. says the proprietary algorithm that fuels what users see on the app is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it to shape content on the platform in a way that’s difficult to detect.

TikTok has repeatedly said it does not share U.S. user data with the Chinese government and that concerns the government has raised have never been substantiated. In court documents, attorneys for both TikTok and its parent company have argued that members of Congress sought to punish the platform based on propaganda they perceived to be on TikTok. The companies also claimed divestment is not possible and that the app would have to shut down by Jan. 19 if the courts don’t step in to block the law.

“Even if divestiture were feasible, TikTok in the United States would still be reduced to a shell of its former self, stripped of the innovative and expressive technology that tailors content to each user,” the companies said in a legal brief

filed in June. “It would also become an island, preventing Americans from exchanging views with the global TikTok community.”

Opponents of the law stress a ban would also cause disruptions in the world of marketing, retail and in the lives of many different content creators, some of whom also sued the government in May. TikTok is covering the legal costs for that lawsuit, which the court has consolidated with the company’s complaint and another filed on behalf of conservative creators who work with a nonprofit called BASED Politics Inc.

Though the government’s primary reasoning for the law is public, significant portions of its court filings include classified information that has been redacted and hidden from public view. The companies have asked the court to reject the secret filings or appoint a district judge who can ferret through the material, which the government has opposed because it will cause a delay in the case. If admitted into the court, legal experts say those secret filings could make it nearly impossible to know some of the factors that could play a part in the eventual ruling. (AP)

## Florida hospitals ask immigrants about their legal status

**McALLEN, Texas** (AP)—For three days, the staff of an Orlando medical clinic encouraged a woman with abdominal pain who called the triage line to go to the hospital. She resisted, scared of a 2023 Florida law that required hospitals to ask whether a patient was in the U.S. with legal permission.

The clinic had worked hard to explain the limits of the law, which was part of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ sweeping package of tighter immigration policies. The clinic posted signs and counseled patients: They could decline to answer the question and still receive care. Individual, identifying information wouldn’t be reported to the state.

“We tried to explain this again and again and again, but the fear was real,” Grace Medical Home CEO Stephanie Garris said, adding the woman finally did go to an emergency room for treatment.

Texas will be the next to try a similar law for hospitals enrolled in state health plans, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. It

takes effect Nov. 1—just before the end of a presidential election in which immigration is a key topic.

“Texans should not have to shoulder the burden of financially supporting medical care for illegal immigrants,” Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement announcing his mandate, which differs from Florida’s in that providers don’t have to tell patients their status won’t be shared with authorities.

Both states have high numbers of immigrants, ranging from people who are in the U.S. without legal permission to people who have pending asylum cases or are part of mixed-status families. And while the medically uninsured rate in these two states—neither of which have expanded Medicaid—are higher than the national average, research has shown immigrants tend to use less and spend less on health care.

Texas and Florida have a long history of challenging the federal government’s immigration policies by passing their own. And their Repub-

lican leaders say the hospital laws counter what they see as lax enforcement at the border by the Biden administration—though Florida’s early data is, by its own admission, limited.

Florida GOP state Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, who sponsored the hospital bill, said in a written statement that the law is “the strongest, and most comprehensive state-led, anti-ILLEGAL immigration law,” but did not respond to The Associated Press’ questions about the impact of the law on the immigrant community or on hospital patients.

Luis Isea, an internal medicine doctor with patients in hospitals and clinics in central Florida, said the law “is creating that extra barrier” for patients who are already exposed to many disparities.

Immigrant advocate groups in Florida said they sent thousands of text messages and emails and held clinics to help people understand the limitations of the law—including that law enforcement agencies wouldn’t know an individual’s status because the data would be reported in aggregate.



# World

## Missile fired by Yemen's rebels lands in Israel

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—A missile fired by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels landed in an open area in central Israel early Sunday and triggered air raid sirens at its international airport, in the latest reverberation from the nearly yearlong war in Gaza. Israel hinted that it would respond militarily.

There were no reports of

casualties or major damage, but Israeli media aired footage showing people racing to shelters in Ben Gurion International Airport. The airport authority said that it resumed normal operations shortly thereafter.

A fire could be seen in a rural area of central Israel, and local media showed images of what appeared to be a frag-

### » Triggers sirens at international airport

ment from an interceptor that landed on an escalator in a train station in the central town of Modiin.

Israel's army said the surface-to-surface missile was intercepted by Israel's defense system, which hit and fragmented the target but did not destroy it. The military said

the sound of explosions in the area came from interceptors.

The Yemeni rebels, known as Houthis, have repeatedly fired drones and missiles toward Israel since the start of the war in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, but nearly all of them have been intercepted

over the Red Sea.

In July, an Iranian-made drone launched by the Houthis struck Tel Aviv, killing one person and wounding 10 others. Israel responded with a wave of airstrikes on Houthi-held areas of Yemen, including the port city of Hodeidah, a Houthi stronghold.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at a similar response in remarks at a Cabinet meeting after Sunday's attack.

"The Houthis should have known by now that we exact a heavy price for any attempt to harm us," he said. "Anyone who needs a reminder is invited to visit the

port of Hodeidah."

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a military spokesman for the rebels, said they fired a ballistic missile targeting "a military target" in the area of Tel Aviv.

The Houthis have also repeatedly attacked commercial shipping in the Red Sea, in what the rebels portray as a blockade on Israel in support of the Palestinians. Most of the targeted ships have no connection to Israel.

The war in Gaza, which began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel, has rippled across the region, with Iran and allied militant groups attacking Israeli and U.S. targets and drawing retaliatory strikes from Israel and its Western allies. On several occasions, the strikes and counterstrikes have threatened to trigger a wider conflict.

## 2 die in Ukraine's Odesa after Moscow, Kyiv exchange drone, missile attacks

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Two people died in a missile attack on the Ukrainian Black Sea port city of Odesa, local officials said, as Moscow and Kyiv exchanged drone and missile attacks.

The Ukrainian air force said Sunday it shot down 10 of the 14 drones and one of the three missiles Russia launched overnight.

Oleh Kiper, Odesa's regional governor, said the two who died in the suburbs of Odesa on Saturday night were a married couple, and that another person was wounded in the attack.

At least 41 people were

wounded Sunday afternoon when a Russian aerial bomb struck a multistory residential building in Kharkiv, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said, adding that the guided bomb hit the 10th floor of the building, with the fire spreading across four stories. Twelve other buildings were also damaged, he said.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said that it downed 29 Ukrainian drones overnight into Sunday over western and southwestern regions, with no damage caused by the falling debris. It also said another Ukrainian drone was shot down Sunday morning

over the western Ryazan region.

While Ukraine and Russia regularly launch overnight drone raids on each other's territory, Ukrainian officials generally don't confirm or deny attacks within Russia's borders.

The latest attacks came after Ukraine made a new call Saturday on the West to allow it to use the long-range missiles they have provided to strike targets deep inside Russia, as Ukrainian forces struggle to hold back Russian advances in eastern Ukraine.

So far, the U.S. has allowed Kyiv to use American-provided weapons only in a limited

area inside Russia's border with Ukraine.

Kyiv officials argue the weapons are vital to weaken Russia's ability to strike Ukraine and force it to move its strike capabilities further from the border.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took to social media on Sunday to again appeal for a shift in the West's policy on the use of long-range weapons, noting that Russia had launched "around 30 missiles of various types, more than 800 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 300 strike drones against Ukraine" this week.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Death toll rises as torrential rain and flooding force evacuations in Central Europe

**PRAGUE** (AP)—The death toll was rising in Central European countries on Sunday after days of heavy rains caused widespread flooding and forced evacuations. Several Central European nations have already been hit by severe flooding, including Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania. Slovakia and Hungary might come next as a result of a low pressure system from northern Italy dumping record rainfall in the region since Thursday. The floods have claimed six lives in Romania and one each in Austria and Poland. In the Czech Republic, four people who were swept away by waters were missing, police said. Most parts of the Czech Republic have been affected as authorities declared the highest flood warnings at around 100 places across the country. But the situation was worst in two northeastern regions that recorded the biggest rainfall in recent days, including the Jeseniky mountains near the Polish border. In the city of Opava, up to 10,000 people out of a population of around 56,000 have been asked to move to higher ground. Rescuers used boats to transport people to safety in a neighborhood flooded by the raging Opava River.

#### Typhoon hits Shanghai with 94-mph winds after 400K people were evacuated

**BEIJING** (AP)—The strongest typhoon to hit

Shanghai since at least 1949 made landfall early Monday with powerful winds and heavy rains after more than 400,000 people were evacuated. Flights, ferries and train services were suspended in the megacity and in neighboring provinces, disrupting travel during China's three-day Mid-Autumn Festival. Shanghai's airports canceled hundreds of flights starting Sunday and through Monday, while in Hangzhou, about 170 kilometers (106 miles) southwest of Shanghai, authorities were also planning to cancel more than 180 flights. More than 60,000 emergency responders and firefighters were at hand to lend aid in Shanghai, according to state media. More than 414,000 people had been evacuated by Monday. Bebinca made landfall around 7:30 a.m. in the sprawling Pudong business district with maximum winds of 151 kph (94 mph) near its center. Authorities expected the typhoon would also affect the nearby provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui. Shanghai, which has 25 million people, is rarely hit by strong typhoons, which usually make landfall further south in China. Typhoon Yagi hit China's southern Hainan island earlier this month and has caused devastation in Southeast Asia. In Myanmar, Yagi caused at least 74 deaths with dozens missing. Four deaths were reported in Hainan, at least 10 have died in Thailand and 20 in the Philippines. Vietnam has reported more than 230 people killed in the typhoon and subsequent flooding and landslides, with dozens more still missing.

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Life & Style

'Shogun' and 'Hacks' win top series Emmy Awards



Justin Marks, center, and HiroYuki Sanada, center right, and the team from "Shogun" accepts the award for outstanding drama series during the 76th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Shogun" had historic wins in an epic 18-Emmy first season, "Hacks" scored an upset for best comedy on what was still a four-trophy night for "The Bear," and "Baby Reindeer" had a holiday at an Emmy Awards that had some surprising swerves.

"Shogun," the FX series about power struggles in feudal Japan, won best drama series for its first, while HiroYuki Sanada became the first Japanese performer to win an Emmy when he won best actor in a drama and co-star Anna Sawai became the second moments later when she won best actress.

"Shogun" taught me when we work together, we can make miracles," Sanada said in his acceptance speech.

Along with 14 Emmys it claimed at the precursor Cre-

ative Arts Emmys and a directing win Sunday night, it had an unmatched performance with 18 overall for one season.

"Hacks" was the surprise winner of the best comedy series award for the first time, topping "The Bear," which most had expected after four big wins earlier in the evening.

Jean Smart won her third best actress in a comedy award for the third season of

"Hacks," in which her stand-up comic character Deborah Vance tries to make it in late-night TV. Smart has six Emmys overall.

Despite losing out on the night's biggest prize after winning it for its first season at January's strike-delayed ceremony, FX's "The Bear" came back for seconds with major acting wins.

Star Jeremy Allen White won best actor in a comedy for the second straight year, and

Emmy Awards: A list of winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 76th annual Emmy Awards were handed out Sunday at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles.

"Shogun" set a single season record for most wins with 18. "Shogun" won best drama series, and HiroYuki Sanada and Anna Sawai won acting awards for their roles.

"Hacks" won the award for best comedy series. "Baby Reindeer" and "The Bear" won four awards apiece.

Early winners included Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Jeremy Allen White and Liza Colón-Zayas, who won awards for their work in the comedy series "The Bear."

Stars presenting Emmys to their peers included: Billy Crystal, Viola Davis, Selena Gomez, Steve Martin, Maya Rudolph and Martin Sheen.

Several actors and shows, including Rudolph, won last week. Rudolph won her

sixth Emmy Award at last weekend's Creative Arts Emmys for her voice work on "Big Mouth." Jamie Lee Curtis also picked up a supporting actress Emmy last weekend for her appearance on "The Bear."

Here's a list of winners at Sunday's Emmys:

- Drama series** "Shogun"
- Comedy series** "Hacks"
- Limited, anthology series, movie** "Baby Reindeer"
- Actor in a drama series** HiroYuki Sanada, "Shogun"
- Actress in a drama series** Anna Sawai, "Shogun"
- Supporting actor in a drama series** Billy Crudup, "The Morning Show"
- Supporting actress in a drama series** Elizabeth Debicki, "The

- Crown**
- Actor in a comedy series** Jeremy Allen White, "The Bear"
- Actress in a comedy series** Jean Smart, "Hacks"
- Supporting actress in a comedy series** Liza Colón-Zayas, "The Bear"
- Supporting actor in a comedy series** Ebon Moss-Bachrach, "The Bear"
- Actor in a limited, anthology series or movie** Richard Gadd, "Baby Reindeer"
- Actress in a limited, anthology series or movie** Jodie Foster, "True Detective: Night Country"
- Supporting actress limited, anthology series or movie** Jessica Gunning, "Baby Reindeer"
- Supporting actor in a limited, anthology series or movie** Lamorne Morris, " Fargo"
- Reality competition pro-**
- gram** "The Traitors," Peacock
- Scripted variety series** "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," HBO/Max
- Talk series** "The Daily Show," Comedy Central
- Writing for a variety special** Alex Edelman, "Just for Us"
- Writing for a comedy series** Lucia Aniello, Paul W. Downs and Jen Statsky, "Hacks"
- Writing for a drama series** Will Smith, "Slow Horses"
- Writing for a limited series, anthology or movie** Richard Gadd, "Baby Reindeer"
- Directing for a limited or anthology series** Steven Zaillian, "Ripley"
- Directing for a comedy series** Christopher Storer, "The Bear"
- Directing for a drama series** Frederick E.O. Toye, "Shogun"
- Governors award** Greg Berlanti

Ebon Moss-Bachrach repeated as best supporting actor.

A surprise came when Liza Colón-Zayas won best supporting actor over major competition.

"How could I have thought it would be possible to be in the presence of Meryl Streep and Carol Burnett," Colón-Zayas said as tears welled in her eyes as she accepted the award on the stage of the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

She is the first Latina to win in the category.

"To all the Latinas who are looking at me," she said, "keep believing and vote."

Netflix's darkly quirky "Baby Reindeer" won best limited series. Creator and star Richard Gadd won for his lead acting and his writing and Jessica Gunning, who plays his tormentor, won best supporting actress.

Accepting the best limited series award, Gadd urged the makers of television to take chances.

"The only constant across

any success in television is good storytelling," he said. "Good storytelling that speaks to our times. So take risks, push boundaries. Explore the uncomfortable. Dare to fail in order to achieve."

"Baby Reindeer" is based on a one man-stage show in which Gadd describes being sexually abused along with other emotional struggles.

Accepting that award, he said, "no matter how bad it gets, it always gets better."

The Associated Press does

not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Gadd has.

Jodie Foster won her first Emmy to go with her two Oscars when she took best actress in a limited series for "True Detective: Night Country."

The creator of "The Bear" was also a repeat winner. Christopher Storer took his second straight Emmy for directing, an award handed out by reunited "Happy Days" co-stars Ron Howard and Henry Winkler.

Active lifestyle makes it harder to find love

DEAR ABBY: I'm a mature male who had a weight problem years ago. When I turned 50, I was diagnosed with metabolic syndrome, hypertension and diabetes. I took my doctor's advice about diet and 150 minutes of exercise a week. Fast-forward to today, and I have lost almost half my body weight and am now in good shape.

My problem now is finding women near or around my age who have the same dedication to exercise and fitness. It is nearly impossible to find a partner who shares the same values. I have tried dating sites, and almost always get catfished. I go on dates, but if I'm not physically attracted to someone, things don't get out of the "friend zone."

I feel physical attraction drives a good part of a healthy relationship. I value having friends, but finding someone who can run, bike, kayak, etc., is, to me, vital to a successful relationship. Should I settle to have someone to spend time with, or keep the faith and hope I find a woman I'm attracted to? I've had little luck finding a compatible partner. Am I too picky, given that a lot of people don't or won't take care of themselves?

DISCOURAGED IN MEMPHIS

DEAR DISCOURAGED: Physical attraction is important, but what attracts us to others varies from person to person. You don't have to be lonely. Because physical fit-

ness is so important in your life in addition to chemistry, continue to look online. If you do, you will find there is more than one dating site geared to folks who are interested in health and fitness. I wish you luck.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior lady who still works at a great job and who is generally very happy with my life. My husband is a clergyman, but we have our own apartment, so my adult daughter lives in the church rectory with her three children and partner. My husband has stated his intention to retire next year—well deserved.

Naturally, my daughter will have to find a new place to live. She has suggested that I sell my apartment and go in with her and her brood on a two-family home. I love her and the grandkids, but my mortgage is paid off, and I don't want to do this. I seriously doubt she has any savings to contribute to a down payment or any of the other myriad costs of paying for or maintaining a house. How can I respond without hurting her too much?

BAD IDEA IN NEW YORK

DEAR BAD IDEA: Your adult daughter has been very fortunate to have parents who have provided shelter for her, her partner and her brood. You didn't mention whether she and her partner have jobs. (I wish you had.) If they

DEAR ABBY BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



do, they could pool their earnings and be able to pay rent to a landlord.

Ask your daughter how she intends to contribute to the arrangement she is suggesting, and be honest about your feelings. It isn't hurtful to stand up for yourself. You don't have to be harsh, but do communicate that what she has in mind wouldn't work for you.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

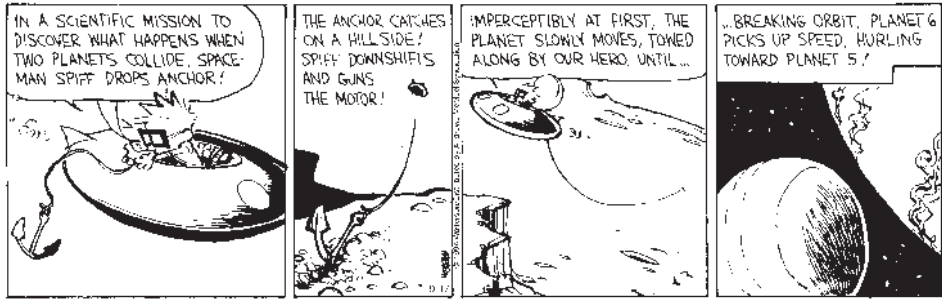
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



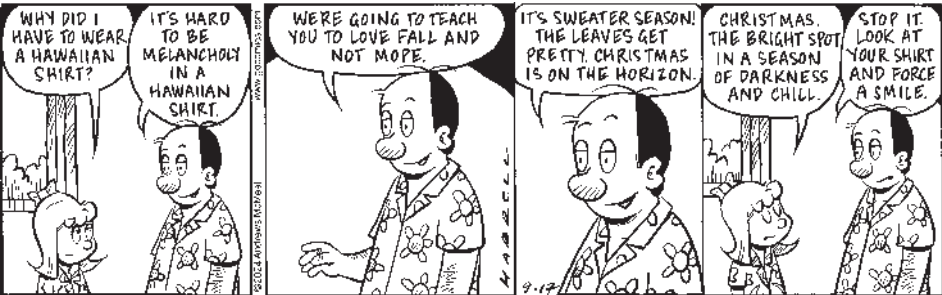
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ACROSS 35 Humpty's perch 36 Writer James 37 Seminar group 38 Texas city 41 X, at times 42 Sty cry 43 Canine security 48 Canape spread 49 Baton Rouge sch. 50 Literary Jane 51 Coin aperture 52 "Dig in!" 53 Authentic

DOWN 1 Group of whales 2 Moody music 3 Director Lee 4 Ashley, to Wynonna 5 Chow for a sow 6 Up-to-date 7 Argument closer 8 Trembling trees 9 LummoX 10 Hostels 11 Youngster 16 Explanation 20 Tools with teeth 21 Lt. Kojak 22 50% 23 Jazz phrase 24 Stock unit 26 Erne 27 Muscat's land 28 Dossier 29 Occupy 31 Pestors 34 Sealing ring 35 Roam 37 Part of MPH 38 "I dropped the cake!" 39 Old radio knob 40 Within (Pref.) 41 Lacking slack 44 Can, neighbor 45 Decorate Easter eggs 46 Mouths (Lat.) 47 Solidify

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patrick Mahomes, 29; Danielle Brooks, 35; Doug E. Fresh, 58; Kyle Chandler, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Take note of what's working for you and what isn't, and adjust your plans to suit your needs. It's time to dump what you no longer use and to simplify your life. A change of attitude or in your space, scenery or routine will help you rejuvenate and lift your spirits. Consider what and who is important to you, and plan your life around what and who brings you joy. Your numbers are 7, 13, 24, 29, 32, 37, 48.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Determine what's best and reserve judgment before acting. It's best to focus on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. Criticism will distance you from someone you love. Reach out with kindness and consideration if you want to bring about positive change. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Choose to tie up loose ends. The less you leave undone, the better you will feel. A change of pace will give you a reason to consider taking on a new challenge or to look for ways to raise your income. Travel and communication are favored. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Relax, digest information and determine what's best for you. Don't follow the crowd. Look at the big picture and consider how you feel and what you want to achieve before you commit to something that benefits someone else more than it does you. \*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Put your energy where it counts. Upholding your reputation by taking responsibility and living up to your commitments will help you lay the foundation for better prospects. Don't risk your physical well-being; take necessary precautions

before you engage in events or activities. Home improvements are favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll respond better to physical actions than empty promises. Take responsibility, verify information and only change what's necessary. Focus more on self-improvement and personal growth and less on what others choose to do. It's up to you to create prospects and opportunities that serve you well. \*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Speak up and share your thoughts and feelings, but don't make a mountain out of a molehill. Sticking to the truth and being realistic to make headway is essential. Honesty and integrity matter and will determine how others react to your requests. \*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Explore what's available. It's necessary to take the path that resonates with your soul and brings you closer to a place that offers comfort and peace of mind. Refuse to let others choose for you or manipulate your train of thought. Be true to yourself. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to detail and to what others say and do. Through observation you'll gain insight that can help you make a decision that can improve your lifestyle and contribute to your creativity and overall attitude. Trust in yourself and your skills, and choose what you desire most. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen carefully. Someone will adjust the truth to suit their needs. A proactive approach to deciphering your position will help you break down what's necessary. An optimistic attitude will make you appear vulnerable if you don't set boundaries. Only agree to what's feasible. Choose your words wisely. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll get a clear picture regarding an investment or money management issue. Set a budget and plan, and you'll look like a genius. Take the initiative and make the changes that suit you. Actions speak louder than words; do your part and take control. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to how you feel and present yourself. A confident attitude will overcome any doubt someone may have in your ability to get things done. Don't feel you have to make a move or change because someone else does. Your strength of character is your secret weapon. \*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take on more than you can handle. Focus on what's necessary and do your best. Discipline and hard work will pay off and help you avoid temptation and those trying to take advantage of you. Structure your day to achieve your goal. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are articulate, persistent and extraordinary. You are sensitive and unique.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★ 9/17 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROBBINS Solution: 6 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication. www.wonderword.com 9/17 Aluminum, Belt, Border, Braid, Clear, Coll, Colors, Cotton, Crafts, Crochet, Cylinder, Dimension, Dress, Embroidery, Garment, Hook, Iron, Lining, Machine, Measure, Needle, Nylon, Pants, Pattern, Pocket, Quilt, Reel, Roll, Rotary, Ruler, Scissors, Size, Spindle, Spool, Stitch, Supply, Tailor, Tape, Textile, Thimble, Thread, Wooden, Wool, Wound, Woven  
Yesterday's Answer: Believe  
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Chargers hammer Panthers to remain unbeaten



**CHARLOTTE, N.C.**

(AP)—Justin Herbert averaged more than 40 pass attempts per game over his first four years in the league. He's attempted just 46 total in his first two games under new coach Jim Harbaugh.

And that's just fine with the Los Angeles Chargers star quarterback.

The Chargers are off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2012, largely because of a balanced offensive attack led by the one-two punch of running backs J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards, a solid offensive line and a defense that is playing lights-out.

Dobbins ran for 131 yards on Sunday, including a 43-yard touchdown, and Herbert showed he can still make plays when he needs to, connecting on two touchdown passes with Quentin Johnston as the Chargers passed their first road test with a 26-3 drubbing of the woeful Carolina Panthers 26-3.

"It's super helpful going out there just knowing that you can go out there and hand the ball to J.K. and Gus knowing they are going to go fight for every yard," Herbert said. "It's a great offensive line that battles play in and play out. So now when we take out shots in the passing game it's only going to help us."

The Chargers methodically wore down the Panthers, piling up 219 yards on the ground while holding Carolina to just 159 total yards and seven first downs.

Second-year quarterback Bryce Young had another miserable game, finishing 18 of 26 passing for 84 yards with one interception and was booed repeatedly by the home crowd while falling to 2-16 as a starter.

The Panthers have been outscored 73-13 this season, but coach Dave Canales said Young will remain his quarterback.

The Panthers, who fell behind 30-0 in the second quarter last week against New Orleans, trailed 20-0 at halftime after being outgained 204-54 before the break. The crowd let out a sarcastic cheer when Chuba Hubbard ran for the Panthers' initial first down more than 25 minutes into the game.

"We were just trying to find some rhythm and we really never found it," Canales said. "Again, another frustrating day for the whole group. My message to the team was really valuing how they attacked the work."

The Chargers defense has allowed just 13 points through two games.

Los Angeles took a 6-0 lead on the game's opening possession when Herbert connected on a perfectly placed 29-yard touchdown pass to Johnston, who beat one-on-one coverage by Jaycee Horn.

"He put the ball on a dime and I think he reminded everybody that he is one of the best quarterbacks in the National Football League," Harbaugh said. "We will lean on both the pass and the run. It's whatever works, and whatever we think can work."

Cameron Dicker missed the extra point, snapping a streak of 60 straight



Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Quentin Johnston celebrates after scoring with guard Zion Johnson during the first half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

made kicks to begin his career.

Horn got even on the next series when he intercepted Herbert at the Chargers 41, but Young rolled out to the left and inexplicably took a sack on third down to take the Panthers out of field-goal range.

It was all downhill from there for Carolina (0-2).

Herbert connected again with Johnston for a 5-yard TD pass on a blown coverage by Carolina's defense.

Dobbins then made it 20-0 when he cut outside, broke a tackle by Xavier Woods, tiptoed down the left sideline and somersaulted into the end zone for his second TD of the season. He became the first NFL player since Jamal Lewis in 2003 with three runs of at least 43 yards the first two weeks of the season.

Herbert finished 14 of 20 for 130 yards and Johnston had five catches for 51 yards.

"My job as a quarterback is to be a point guard, to get them the ball and get us in the right looks," Herbert said.

At times, it appeared the Panthers were playing not to let the score get more out of hand, twice running the football in the final minutes of the third quarter while down by 20—much to the chagrin of the home crowd, the majority of which left before the fourth quarter.

Carolina didn't throw the ball down the field.

"I trust Coach's game plan," Young said of the team's offensive game plan. "We've just got to do a better job of executing. I've got all the faith in the world in the coach. In the end, it all starts with me. I have to do a better job of executing."

As for getting booed, Young said he appreciates the fan base's passion.

But two weeks into the season—and coming off a 2-15 season a year ago—the frustration appears to be setting in in Carolina. At one point Adam Thielen was seen screaming into the air on the sideline while Di-

ontae Johnson was in Young's ear.

"Obviously it's frustrating," Young said. "At the end of the day on the sideline, I was trying to get it right—for the next series and for the future for whatever it is. I want to be constructive and make sure we're communicating. Just wanting to talk through things. We have emotions. We're all competitors."

Staying in Charlotte

The Chargers will remain in Charlotte this week to practice before heading to Pittsburgh for next week's game. Harbaugh will practice at UNC Charlotte, where Biff Poggi, his former assistant and associate head coach at Michigan, is now the 49ers head coach.

Harbaugh said the reason he stayed on the East Coast was so players could "get their body clocks right."

## **BUCS 20, LIONS 16**

**DETROIT** (AP)—Baker Mayfield had an 11-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter, and Tampa Bay beat Detroit in a playoff rematch.

Tampa Bay (2-0) fell behind only once in the closely contested game, and it stopped Detroit (1-1) when it had two chances to drive for a go-ahead touchdown in the final minutes.

The Lions turned it over on downs at the Bucs 6 with 53 seconds left and again at their 26 with 2 seconds left.

## **SAINTS 44, COWBOYS 19**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Alvin Kamara scored four touchdowns, including a 57-yarder on a screen pass, and New Orleans ended Dallas' 16-game home winning streak in the regular season with a victory over the Cowboys.

Derek Carr threw for 243 yards and two TDs to go along with a 1-yard sneak for a score, and the Saints (2-0) got touchdowns on their first six drives a week after setting a franchise record by starting the season with points on nine consecutive possessions in a 47-10 rout of Carolina.

It was actually the second straight loss at AT&T Stadium for the Cowboys (1-1) after their 48-32 wild-card shocker against Green Bay last January.

## **PACKERS 16, COLTS 10**

**GREEN BAY, Wis.** (AP)—Malik Willis threw his first career touchdown pass, Josh Jacobs had 151 of Green Bay's 261 yards rushing and the Packers withstood the absence of injured quarterback Jordan Love to beat Indianapolis.

Indianapolis (0-2) cut the Packers' lead to 16-10 on Anthony Richardson's 4-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce with 1:47 left, but Green Bay's Evan Williams recovered the ensuing onside kick. The Colts got the ball back at their own 5-yard line with 43 seconds left, but Williams intercepted a Hail Mary attempt from the Indy 41 to end the game.

## **BROWNS 18, JAGUARS 13**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—Deshaun Watson ran for a touchdown, Dustin Hopkins kicked three field goals and stingy Cleveland did just enough to hold off Jacksonville.

The Browns (1-1) dominated much of the rainy day, sacking Trevor Lawrence four times and holding Jacksonville in check for nearly three quarters.

The Jaguars (0-2) woke up late, with Lawrence finding rookie Brian Thomas Jr. for 66 yards to set up a touchdown and then adding a field goal to make it a one-score game.

## **VIKINGS 23, 49ERS 17**

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Sam Darnold passed for 268 yards and two touchdowns against his former team, including a 97-yard strike in the second quarter to Justin Jefferson, and an attacking defense again fueled Minnesota in a victory over San Francisco.

Darnold went 17 for 26 with one interception to win his second straight start for the Vikings (2-0), who used

the last of three field goals by rookie Will Reichard to give themselves a bigger cushion midway through the fourth quarter.

## **SEAHAWKS 23, PATRIOTS 20 (OT)**

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Jason Myers hit a 31-yard field goal in overtime to lift Seattle to a win over New England.

The game-winner capped a three-for-three day for Myers, who ensured the game went into OT with a 38-yard field goal with less than a minute left in regulation. Myers also hit from 44 yards in the second quarter.

## **JETS 24, TITANS 17**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Braelon Allen, the NFL's youngest player, ran for a 20-yard touchdown with 4:31 left to put Aaron Rodgers and New York ahead to stay as they beat Tennessee.

Rodgers threw for 176 yards and two TDs and got to kneel down for his first victory with the Jets that he started and finished. One of those TD passes by the 40-year-old Rodgers was to the 20-year-old Allen, marking a score by the NFL's oldest and youngest players.

## **COMMANDERS 21, GIANTS 18**

**LANDOVER, Md.** (AP)—Jayden Daniels picked up his first win as an NFL quarterback, leading Washington past New York thanks to a franchise-record seven field goals from new kicker Austin Seibert.

Daniels engineered the go-ahead, 65-yard drive in the final minutes to get the ball into the red zone, setting up Seibert's 30-yard field goal that won it as the clock expired. Seibert's 7-for-7 performance came days after he replaced Cade York, who missed each of his two attempts in the season opener.

## **CHIEFS 26, BENGALS 25**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Harrison Butker kicked a 51-yard field goal as time expired and the Kansas City Chiefs, kept alive by a pass interference call on Bengals safety Daijahn Anthony on fourth down in the final minute, rallied to beat Cincinnati 26-25. Patrick Mahomes threw for 151 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. But it was his incomplete pass to Rashee Rice on fourth-and-16 from the Kansas City 35 that turned out to be decisive. Anthony arrived early and hit Rice from behind, and the penalty gave Kansas City a chance.

## **CARDINALS 41, RAMS 10**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Kyler Murray threw for 266 yards and three touchdowns, rookie receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. caught his first two touchdown passes and Arizona rolled past the Los Angeles Rams. The Cardinals' offense dazzled on the way to a 24-3 halftime lead. Murray found Harrison for a 23-yard touchdown on the first drive and a 60-yard touchdown on the second drive of the game.



# Judge homers for league-leading 53, Yankees beat Boston, 5-2



## NEW YORK

(AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 53rd homer, and the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 5-2 on Sunday to open a three-game AL East lead over second-place Baltimore.

Judge, whose 132 RBIs also top the major leagues, homered twice in three games followed a career-high 16-game homerless streak and helped Carlos Rodón get his career-best 15th win.

New York (87-63) took three of four from the Red Sox and headed on the road for a seven-game trip to Seattle and Oakland on the verge of clinching a postseason berth after failing to reach the playoffs last year for the first time since 2016.

Tyler O'Neill hit a two-run homer for the Red Sox (75-75), who dropped 4 1/2 games behind Minnesota (79-70) for the final AL wild card spot.

Wearing No. 21 on Roberto Clemente Day, Judge hit a two-run shot in a three-run third off Kutter Crawford (8-15) on 0-1 fastball. The 445-foot drive soared onto the netting above Monument Park behind center field for a 4-0 lead.

## TIGERS 4, ORIOLES 2

**DETROIT** (AP)—Riley Greene homered twice and drove in three runs, and Detroit beat Baltimore to take two of three from the Orioles.

Greene hit a two-run homer with two outs in the third off Cade Povich (2-9) and a solo drive in the eighth against Gregory Soto. Greene leads the Tigers with 23 homers. He hit both homers off left-handers after entering the day batting .203 with four homers against lefties.

Detroit (77-73), which began the day 2 1/2 games behind Minnesota for the last AL wild card, has won six of eight.

Baltimore (84-64) dropped its second straight series and scored just six runs in the three games. The Orioles, who have lost six of eight, started the day two games back of the AL East-leading Yankees but in position for the top AL wild card.

## TWINS 9, REDS 2

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Rookie Brooks Lee drove had five RBIs, Carlos Santana went 3 for 4 with a two-run homer and Minnesota rallied to beat Cincinnati for just their fourth win in 12 games.

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Ryan Jeffers had two hits and two runs for the Twins, who scored eight times in the sixth and seventh innings to avoid a three-game sweep.

Minnesota (79-70) main-



New York Yankees center fielder Aaron Judge, right, celebrates with Juan Soto, front, and Jasson Dominguez (89) after a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in New York.

tained a 2 1/2-game lead over Detroit (77-73) for the last AL wild card spot. The Twins play at Cleveland on Monday, starting a seven-game trip that ends in Boston.

Cole Sands (8-1) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings, as did Jorge Alcala, who struck out four.

## PIRATES 4, ROYALS 3

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the fifth inning, as Pittsburgh avoided a three-game sweep with a win over Kansas City.

Billy Cook lined a single to left to start the fifth and scored from first on a hit and run when Kiner-Falefa shot one to center past a diving Bobby Witt Jr. at short to put the Pirates ahead 3-2. Kiner-Falefa also singled in the first and sixth innings.

Kansas City's Brady Singer (9-11), who gave up four runs on six hits and four walks with six strikeouts in five innings, later walked Rowdy Tellez with the bases loaded to bring the Pittsburgh lead to 4-2.

Carmen Mlodzinski (3-5) pitched a perfect fifth inning in relief of Pirates starter Jared Jones, who allowed two runs and six hits in the first four. Aroldis Chapman struck out one in a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

## PHILLIES 2, METS 1

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—J.T. Realmuto hit a game-ending single off Edwin Díaz with two outs in the ninth inning, and Philadelphia rallied late for the second straight day to beat New York.

Tyrone Taylor homered in the eighth against Cristopher Sánchez but Buddy Kennedy tied the score in the bottom half off David Peterson, who pitched a season-high 7 2/3

innings.

Nick Castellanos singled with one out in the ninth against Díaz (5-4) and stole second as Alec Bohm struck out. Down 0-2 in the count, Realmuto lined a 99.5 mph fastball over the high, outside corner to right-center for his sixth career walk-off hit.

## NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 3

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Rookie James Wood homered twice, MacKenzie Gore pitched six innings of two-hit ball as Washington defeated Miami.

Washington won the last three in the four-game series and finished 11-2 against the Marlins this season.

Jonah Bride homered for Miami, which clinched a last-place finish in the NL East for the first time since 2019. The Marlins dropped six of seven on its road trip to Pittsburgh and Washington.

It was the first multi-homer game for Wood. He ripped a 435-foot shot to center with two outs in the fifth inning off Miami starter Adam Oller, then led off the eighth against Declan Cronin with a 426-foot blast to left-center.

## BLUE JAYS 3, CARDINALS 2

**TORONTO** (AP)—Nathan Lukes drove in the winning run with a double in the eighth inning as Toronto beat St. Louis to complete a three-game sweep.

Pinch hitter George Springer singled off right-hander Andrew Kittredge (4-5) with one out in the eighth and Lukes followed with an RBI double into the left field corner.

Davis Schneider added a two-run home run, his second homer in two games, to help the Blue Jays sweep their fifth series of the season.

## GUARDIANS 2, RAYS 0

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Ben Lively and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, Brayan Rocchio had an RBI single for the go-ahead run and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Tampa Bay.

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Cade Smith, Tim Herrin, Hunter Gaddis and Emmanuel Clase wrapped up Cleveland's 12th shutout. Clase finished for his career-high 45th save, taking over the major league lead from St. Louis' Ryan Helsley and moving within one of tying Jose Mesa's franchise record.

Lively (12-9) worked five-plus innings in his best start in seven weeks, giving up two hits in the first and two in the sixth. The right-hander struck out two, helping the Guardians reduce their magic number for clinching a playoff berth to four.

## WHITE SOX 4, ATHLETICS 3

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Chicago won back-to-back games for the first time in nearly three months, beating Oakland behind home runs from Gavin Sheets and Bryan Ramos to end a streak of 20 consecutive series losses.

A day after scoring in the ninth to win 7-6 and stop a 16-game home losing streak, the White Sox took a 3-0 first-inning lead and strung together wins for the first time since three in a row against Atlanta and Colorado from June 27-29. Chicago hadn't won a series since taking two of three from the Rockies.

Chicago is 35-115 with 12 games left and is trying to avoid the post-1900 record of 120 losses by the 1962 expansion New York Mets. The White Sox are 20-58 at home, one shy of the post-1900 mark

for home losses shared by the 1939 St. Louis Browns and 2019 Detroit Tigers.

## CUBS 6, ROCKIES 1

**DENVER** (AP)—Michael Busch had his first big league multi-homer game, helping Chicago beat Colorado to stop a three-game losing streak.

Advertisement

Chicago (76-73), which had lost seven of 11, began the day six games behind Atlanta and the New York Mets for the final NL wild card. The Mets lost at Philadelphia.

Busch had a go-ahead RBI single in the third, then hit solo homers in the seventh inning off Jake Bird and the ninth against Justin Lawrence, increasing the rookie's season total to 20. He was 6 for 10 with three homers and seven RBIs in the series.

## PADRES 4, GIANTS 3

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Joe Musgrove struck out eight in six innings, Manny Machado and Jackson Merrill both drove in two runs and San Diego beat San Francisco to hand the Giants their third straight shutout.

Donovan Solano had four of San Diego's 17 hits and Xander Bogaerts homered for the Padres, who hold the top National League wild card. They clawed within 3 1/2 games of the first-place Dodgers—who have lost four of five—in the NL West.

The Giants have lost four of five. They've been shut out in three consecutive games for the first time since 1992 and just the fourth time in the San Francisco era (since 1958).

Luis Arráez extended his streak to 135 at-bats without a strikeout. It's the longest since Juan Pierre went 147 at-bats without a strikeout in 2004.

## ASTROS 6, ANGELS 4

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Ronel Blanco threw six scoreless innings, Jason Heyward had a home run among his three hits and Houston finished off a three-game sweep of Los Angeles with a victory.

Jeremy Peña had two hits and two runs scored as the Astros won their fourth consecutive game and remained 4 1/2 games ahead of the Seattle Mariners in the American League West.

Blanco (11-6) allowed two walks and had five strikeouts in his return to the starting rotation after pitching two innings of scoreless relief Sept. 7 against Arizona. Blanco was used out of the bullpen for a game to manage his usage in his first full season in the majors.

"The thing that helped me a

ton was being able to have that rest before this outing," Blanco said through an interpreter.

## MARINERS 7, RANGERS 0

**SEATTLE** (AP)—George Kirby faced the minimum number of batters and gave up one hit in seven sparkling innings, and Seattle shut out Texas to earn a series victory and keep pace in the AL West and wild-card races.

Mitch Garver hit a three-run home run against his former team in the first inning and Randy Arozarena added a solo shot in the seventh. The homers helped Seattle remain four games behind the Astros in the AL West with 12 games to play. They face Houston to finish a six-game road trip next weekend. The Mariners also remained 2.5 games behind the Minnesota Twins in the AL wild-card race.

## DIAMONDBACKS 11, BREWERS 10, 10 INNINGS

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Eugenio Suárez hit a game-ending single off the right-field wall, just a few feet shy of a grand slam, capping a three-run 10th inning that led Arizona over Milwaukee to avoid a series sweep.

Arizona wasted a 5-0, fifth-inning lead, then overcame an 8-5 deficit with two runs in the seventh and Suárez's sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Jackson Chourio had a career-high five RBIs, including a two-out, opposite-field, two-run triple down the right-field line against Justin Martinez that put Milwaukee back ahead 10-8 in the 10th.

While Milwaukee closer Devin Williams warmed up twice, manager Pat Murphy did not bring him in for the bottom half.

## DODGERS 9, BRAVES 2

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Mookie Betts had a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in a seven-run ninth inning and Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

The loss drops the Braves into a tie with the Mets for the third wild-card spot in the National League with 13 games to play.

The Dodgers hold a two-game lead on the Brewers in their pursuit of the National League's No. 2 seed and first-round bye in the playoffs. They lead the Padres by four games in the N.L. West.

Shohei Ohtani was 2 for 4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored, but he did not homer or steal a base in his pursuit of MLB's first 50-50 season. He has 47 home runs and 48 stolen bases.



# Kizzire ends drought with 5-stroke victory in Procore Championship

**NAPA, Calif.** (AP)—Patton Kizzire ended a long victory drought Sunday in the Procore Championship, closing with a scrambling 2-under 70 for a tournament-record, five-stroke victory in the FedEx Cup Fall opener at Silverado Country Club.

Kizzire had gone 176 events without a victory after winning events in Mexico and Hawaii in a two-month span in late 2017 and early 2018.

“I’m going to enjoy this win,” Kizzire said. “It’s just so sweet to get through the ups and downs. That’s life. You just got to stay positive. That’s what led

me to here, to right now.”

The 38-year-old former Auburn player earned a PGA Tour card for the next two years after entering the event 132nd in the fight to earn a card with a top-125 finish in the standings. He also gets spots in the Masters and PGA Championship and The Sentry at Kapalua.

Kizzire finished at 20-under 268. On Sunday, he repeatedly misfired off the tee for a second consecutive day, but stayed steady with his approach shots and had three birdies, an eagle and three bogeys.

“I knew that it would be difficult not to get ahead of myself with a four-shot lead

heading into today,” Kizzire said. “I wrote down in my yard book, ‘I am here, I I am now.’ Kept going back to that. That helped me be disciplined and stay present. That’s what really helped me come out on top.”

David Lipsky was second after a 71.

Patrick Fishburn (71) was third at 14 under. Mackenzie Hughes (72), Ben Silverman (71) and Greyson Sigg (72) were another stroke back.

Sahith Theegala, the winner last year, closed with a 72 to tie for fifth at 12-under 276.

Unlike in 2023 when Theegala was followed by a large

gallery on his way to winning, Kizzire and Lipsky played the final round in front of a small crowd at the picturesque course in the heart of the Napa Valley wine country.

For the second straight day, Kizzire had to make up for his erratic tee shots. He missed 11 fairways and hit three drives into bunkers but got out of trouble and limited the damage each time.

Lipsky also had issues off the tee trying to battle winds that had been mostly absent for the first three rounds.

“It was really tough out there,” Lipsky said. “The wind was swirling and it was strong and the greens were so firm. Where the put some of those pins is really tough to get close.”

After Lipsky made birdies on Nos. 1 and 4 to get within two shots, Kizzire responded



Patton Kizzire celebrates after winning the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Napa, Calif.

with an eagle on the par-5 fifth. Kizzire hit his second shot past the green, then holed a soft wedge shot coming back from 50 feet to get to 20 under.

Kizzire bogeyed No. 11 after another errant tee shot, while Lipsky birdied to get within two strokes again. Kizzire then made a birdie save after driving into a green-side bunker on No. 12, and had another birdie on No. 13.

Kizzire was ahead by five strokes after a birdie on No. 15, then missed a short par putt on No. 16. He had a chance to get the stroke back on No. 17, but pushed his putt to the right of the hole and settled for par.

## ACS

From page 16

School Torchbearers and Saipan International School Lady Geckos took center stage once again.

The Torchbearers burned brightly with a score of 22 through the new 3-mile course that started and ended at the AMP softball field, onto the loop road, exited toward the beach, through the wooded area, then back to the path.

Second was the Marianas High School Dolphins with 34 points; third was SIS at 36; Saipan Southern High School had 68; and Mount Carmel School collected 86 points.

For the girls division, the Lady Geckos garnered 16 points; ACS’ score was 22; and the Lady Dolphins had 47.

In the boys individual standings, Victor Nash Santos of SIS came in first once again with a time of 19:11; ACS’ Jireh Wang was second at 19:39; and third was MHS’ Takeru Jim who clocked in at 19:55.

In the girls individual standings, it was a close race to-



LEIGH GASES  
Girls high school division runners Saipan International School's Addalee Taflinger, right, sprints ahead to first place while fellow Lady Gecko Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez is right behind in the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational last Saturday.

wards the finish as SIS’ Addalee Taflinger sprinted into first place with a time of 23:03, with Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez right behind at 23:04. Third was ACS’ Sablina Chen at 26:17.

Santos, after the race of the new course, said “it was a whole different experience. It’s my second time running on sand in a race ever, but I ran this course a few days ago so I was more familiar with it and that was an advantage that helped me.”

On his second first-place finish in a row, he said, “I just kept pushing. I always have this mindset—did I do better than the last? I always try to be faster than the lap I just did.”

In an email, according to Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster

and coach as well as meet director, “This is the closest thing to a North American or European cross-country meet we have. It has grassy areas, wooded areas, a strip along the beach, a pole obstacle to jump over, and paved sections. All that we are missing is a mud pit but the grassy areas might get a little muddy.”

The next qualifier is the SIS Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff is on Sept. 28; the ISA Invitational with the location to be determined is on Oct. 5; and the championship is set for Oct. 12 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of the 14U middle school and 9U and 12U elementary school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## SIGNED

From page 16

Trench Tech Promotions’ fundraiser for the upcoming Pátgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam set for Oct. 26.

For the adult’s no gi division, there’s a \$40 registration fee, and students get an additional \$5 off and pay only \$35 to enter and compete. Just show a valid student ID, while for or the kids’ gi division, the registration fee is \$25.

Aside from the kids gi and adult no gi divisions, Mats on

Fire will also feature five exhibition kickboxing matches.

Main sponsors of the “Mats on Fire” submission grappling tournament are Monster Energy, Century Hotel, and Hafa Adai Rent-A-Car. Other sponsors include Fökai and Trench Tech Purebred Gym.

All competitors will be vying for gold, silver, and bronze medals in each division and there will be a raffle for the audience.

Spectators pay \$5 for kids ages 5-12 and \$10 13 and up. Kids under 5 years old are free. Matches will be from

10am to 4pm with doors opening at 9am. Trench Tech Promotions will also be selling food and drinks so no outside food or drinks allowed.

All interested competitors can call, (670) 783-4MMA to enter. They would need to fill out the registration form and waiver and pay their entry fee. Deadline to register will be Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 6pm.

For more information on the “Mats on Fire” submission grappling tournament, call Trench Tech Promotions owner Justis “Cuki” Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 484-4662.

## PIP

From page 16

to MOC, the president and its members, especially to MOC women for all of the

support and encouragement from them. And always to GetFitCNMI for their training program.”

Her last race was in the open women V1 500m sprints in the IVF Va’a World Elite

and Club Sprint Championship 2024 last month.

She is hoping to be able to make it back to Saipan on time to compete in next month’s 24th Annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	63	.580	—
Baltimore	84	66	.560	3
Boston	75	75	.500	12
Tampa Bay	73	77	.487	14
Toronto	72	78	.480	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	86	64	.573	—
Kansas City	82	68	.547	4
Minnesota	79	70	.530	6½
Detroit	77	73	.513	9
Chicago	35	115	.233	51
West Division				
Houston	81	68	.544	—
Seattle	77	73	.513	4½
Texas	71	79	.473	10½
Oakland	65	85	.433	16½
Los Angeles	60	89	.403	21
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	90	59	.604	—
Atlanta	81	68	.544	9
New York	81	68	.544	9
Washington	68	81	.456	22
Miami	55	95	.367	35½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	86	63	.577	—
Chicago	76	73	.510	10
St. Louis	74	75	.497	12
Cincinnati	73	78	.483	14
Pittsburgh	71	78	.477	15
West Division				
Los Angeles	88	61	.591	—
San Diego	85	65	.567	3½
Arizona	83	66	.557	5
San Francisco	72	78	.480	16½
Colorado	57	93	.380	31½

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65	38
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30	48
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43	49
New England	1	1	0	.500	36	33
South						
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	48	40
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	37	45
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	30	38
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	34	48
North						
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	31	16
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	35	46
Baltimore	0	2	0	.000	43	53
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	35	42
West						
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	53	45
L.A. Chargers	2	0	0	1.000	48	13
Las Vegas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Denver	0	2	0	.000	26	39
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	29
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	52	61
Washington	1	1	0	.500	41	55
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	24	49
South						
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	91	29
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	57	36
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	10	18
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	13	73
North						
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	51	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	37	36
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	44
West						
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	49	42
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	30	67

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

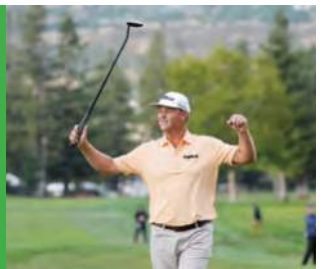




**Chargers hammer Panthers to remain unbeaten**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Kizzire ends drought with 5-stroke victory in Procore Championship**  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## ACS, SIS repeat in HS divisions

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park was a stark contrast to the first as dark clouds loomed over the course that was littered with puddles and slippery grass.



Even with that, 468 cross-country runners took to the course last Saturday morning, as repeat winners in the 18U high school divisions—Agape Christian



LEIGH GASES  
Saipan International School's speedy Victor Nash Santos sprints to the finish line of the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park softball field last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES  
Saipan Southern High School's Simon Tang, left, and Saipan International School's Landen Taflinger sprint side by side at breakneck speed to the finish line, with Tang securing seventh place by just a split second during the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

High school division cross-country runners bolt out of the starting line at the American Memorial Park softball field in the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational last Saturday.

## Pip takes on grueling Singapore Ocean Cup

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Marianas Outrigger Club veteran paddler Pipit Ball took on the grueling Singapore Ocean Cup 2024—Singapore's biggest annual ocean paddling championship race last Saturday.

Ball was the solo paddler which guaranteed her first place in the women's V1 Long Course single craft 14-km race and finished it in one piece with a time of 2:24:32.5 despite the choppy waters and inclement weather.

Paddlers from Hawaii, New Zealand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia shared the waters for a rough yet rewarding race, with Ball deciding to compete because she was near the area. She is currently in Indonesia for work and made her way to Singapore via ferry.

There, she said it had the "worst water condition I've ever been in! But I will do it again!" She added, "I was not expecting that kind of condition but it's a learning process. It's my first time [in] this competition and I am hoping I will make it again next year and I will learn from this experience."

In the race, she said, "Most of the competitors used a OC1 canoe, which I found out was very convenient for them to paddle in rough and tough Singapore



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club's Pipit Ball poses with her first-place medal she won in the Singapore Ocean Cup 2024 of the V1 Long Course single craft 14km race last Saturday.

water. I chose to be in V1 because that's what I train for, but it's more challenging because I have no support from rudders unlike the OC1.

She said with that, she had to rely on her steering skills and power to paddle against the swells from every direction, and find her way to avoid the currents. Also, she said that flat waters without wind is one of the hardest things she had to traverse.

She added, "It was only two of us in the V1 category and to get the medals, that's part of the athlete's strategy to choose your course wisely and trust in myself that I can do it."

Her mindset throughout, she said, was, "I must do my best. I gave myself a lot of pressure but just to be back to the finish line safely, I have so much to be grateful for."

She then said, "Thanks

See PIP on Page 15

## 39 so far signed up for 'Mats on Fire'

By MARK RABAGO  
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EDITOR



A total of 39 participants have so far signed up for Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament set for Sept. 28 at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

In the kids gi, Wolfie Sablan, Neil Quitagua, and Uma Naputi will be vying in the 40- to 50-lb peewee 1; Ayani Rios, Sophia Choi, and Eleanor Anderson in the 51- to 60-lb peewee 2; Amelia Zevallos, Reiden Travilla and Deighton Muña in the 61- to 70-lb peewee 3; Mica Zevallos, Wesley Deleon Guerrero, and Tate Manglona in the 71- to 80-lb peewee 4; Kaiya Pangelinan. Ryusei Gersonde, Deon Greenman, Deanna Greenman, and Jerome Cruz in the 81- to 90-lb kids 1; Joseph Cruz, Trey Manglona, Dylan Greenman, and Jordan Camacho in the 91- to 100-lb kids 2; and J.J. Quitagua, Matua Puguon, Noel Quitagua, and Gabriel Mitchel in the 101- to 150-lb absolute.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Gym sensei Justis "Cuki" Alvarez poses with the CNMI contingent in last year's Pátgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam.

In the adult no gi weight division, Drey Aldan is so far the lone competitor in the 101- to 110-lb super atom weight; Jessica Ma in the 111- to 120-lb atom weight; Ma again and BengBeng Palacios in the 121- to 130-lb flyweight; Baby Jay Muna and Daryn Roufs in the 131- to 140-lb bantam weight; Jimmy Polk, Jake Yamagishi, and Giovanni Taitingong in the

141- to 150-lb featherweight; Jose Camacho, Baelen "Leg Collector" Song, and Jason Artero in the 151- to 160-lb lightweight; Lucas Nutting and Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in the 186- to 205-lb light heavy weight; and Nutting, Mahon Gandhi, and Kier Agda in the 206- to 250-lb heavy weight.

Mats on Fire serves as

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XAVIER KEWTCH

Marianas Outrigger Club's Pipit Ball poses with her first-place medal on stage during the awards ceremony of the Singapore Ocean Cup 2024 last Saturday.